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Consumer price hikes loom in October

'Jesus-Mary' book doesn't impress Fil-Am bishop

By Nikko Dizon

"EEK! Hello! You got it from the bookstore's fiction section and you make it for real?"

That was visiting Filipino-American Bishop Oscar Arnoso, [illegible] addressing Catholic bishops of the international bestseller, "The Da Vinci Code," whose faith may have been shaken by

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

GMA wants more studies on Bataan nuclear plant

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Abigail L. Ho

NO, IT'S not a goneful exit. It's just that President Macapagal-Arroyo wants more studies done on the controversy-hounded Bataan nuclear power plant, the Palace says.

Stressing the country had to live with realities, the President's spokesperson Ignacio

mail.feedback@inquirer.com.ph
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'Txtrs, revolt! Snd no 2 txt-tax 2 JdV'

Traders, senators warn GMA on oil tax

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Abigail L. Ho and Christine O. Avendaño

BUSINESSMEN and several senators are urging President Macapagal-Arroyo to go slow on her proposal to slap an additional P2 per liter tax on petroleum products because it would further fan inflation and choke economic growth.

"As world prices of oil surge to 21-year highs, it would be an unsettling government that would levy higher fuel taxes at a time when costly petroleum products have already made food and basic necessities more expensive," Sen. Ralph Recto, chair of the Senate ways and means committee, said.

The additional tax on fuel is one of eight tax measures that Mrs. Arroyo wants Congress to pass to stem the expected budget deficit of about P200 billion this year and finance her pro-poor programs.

Recto's counterpart in the House of Representatives said those measures were not in danger of opposition in the Senate despite the government's majority there.

Rep. Jedi Lopez, chair of the House ways and means committee, said that although the lower house was likely to pass the bills, some of the more controversial plans may not see approval until next year.

Taxing oil products might be the most convenient and efficient way to raise revenues but it was also the most "damaging" to the economy, according to Miguel Ibardo, chair of Philippine Inc.

Ibardo said the additional tax on petroleum products would trigger similar increases in the cost of transportation, electricity, consumer goods and manufactured goods and more pressure on employees to raise wages.

The Trade Union Congress of the Philippines is already considering filing a new wage petition to offset the expected rise in prices of commodities and fares

TRADERS, 62

US envoy says RP no longer part of coalition

By Jocelyn Ating

DESPITE the naming of the Philippines to the 30-list "Coalition of the Willing" in Iraq, Manila and Washington are resolved to patch up the rift in their relationship, officials of both countries said yesterday.

Foreign Secretary Delia Albert and US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone were all smiles when they emerged from their closed-door talks at the Department of Foreign Affairs yesterday, but the strain in the two countries' ties was apparent.

Albert had previously said the and Ricciardone would issue a joint statement, but there was some tension they could not agree on how it should be worded, a high Philippine official said.

"They could not agree on the details," the official said, asking for anonymity.

The result was that Albert and Ricciardone delivered separate remarks to the media.

Reuters quoted an unnamed official as saying that the US rejected the draft of a proposed joint statement because "the Americans found the statement too friendly."

The ties between the two countries had been strained by the Philippines' decision to withdraw its troops from Iraq last month in order to save truck driver Angelo

US ENVOY, 62

AMID strained Philippine-American ties, Foreign Secretary Delia Albert and US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone shake hands after meeting with journalists. [illegible]

Cell phone users up in arms over gov't plan to tax text messages

By Norman Bordadora

FOR DAYS to come, Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr.'s cell phone will likely receive the biggest number of text messages in the Philippines.

A consumer group called Txt Power yesterday painted De Venecia's number to cell phone subscribers as part of a nationwide protest to denounce government plans to tax text messaging.

The group came out with the following text message and urged recipients to pass it on: "Txtrs, REVOLT! It part of history. Join 3day's other subj. Snd NO 2 TXT TAX 2 all of spnsrs JdV 0917 810 2284 Join Txtpower joke at 2pm simyol congrs Pls pass."

"In the world's undisputed text-messaging capital, the Philippines will show that Filipinos will not just allow unjust government exactions," Txt Power spokesperson Roque Cruz said.

With 120 million to 150 million messages crossing mobile phone networks daily, the Philippines has been tagged as the "text capital" of the world. Text messaging is the most popular way to keep in touch in the country because it is cheaper than a phone call.

There are potentially 36 million cell phone users who could ring high-battery cell phones with messages of protest, according to Txt Power. Industry estimates said each of the 84 million Filipinos would owns a handset by the end of next year.

"We expect thousands, tens of thousands and hopefully hundreds of thousands of text messages to flood the system. I hope small-income workers who seem to be hit-hour are keeping telecom services more expensive through new levies on all cell phone services," Cruz said.

As of yesterday afternoon, the group had set as release the names and numbers of the cell phone numbers of Congress.

Touting the windfall profits of telecommunication

TXTRS, 62

Gorilla 'calls' for dentist

WOODSIDE, California — Pilot Koko the gorilla used the American Sign Language gesture for pain and pointed to her mouth, 12 specialists, including three dentists, sprang into action.

The result? Her first full medical examination in about 20 years, an extracted tooth and a clean bill of health.

About a month ago, Koko, a 135-kilogram plus [illegible] pound] ape who

KOKO'S, 62

Twins' mom faces quandary: Who to stay with?

NEW YORK—Which one should she stay with?

It was a sweet, if strange, predicament for Arlene Agosto, whose twin sons Carl and Clarence—born joined at the head in 2003—were surgically separated last week at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx.

Carl was taken from his room on Sunday for a routine Computerized Axial Tomography (CAT) Scan.

"This is the first time he's leaving his brother alone," hospital spokesperson Steve Schmitz quoted Arlene as saying.

Osborne said a nurse reported that the mother looked perplexed, "like she didn't know which boy to stay with."

In the end, Arlene decided to go with Carl for the test, leaving her mother, Yesibella, with Clarence.

Since the 17-hour operation on Wednesday, the boys have shared a room in the pediatric intensive care unit, enclosed on sides by cubicle beds.

Dr. David Staffenberg, plastic surgeon, said the boys were recovering so well that the doctors, who'd hoped to keep them from moving too much, might be released today.

"They're really unobservant kids, so I the isolation] is pointless," Staffenberg said.

Individually, the twins face several more operations. For instance, Staffenberg said, Carl's cleft will need to be reconstructed from so. doctors and relatives are pleased with the boys' progress.

Staffenberg earlier described his little

TWINS' MOM, 62

AFTER an extremely delicate operation, the world awaits the first face-to-face meeting of ensemble conjoined twins Carl and Clarence Agosto.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2004

WEATHER FORECAST

Second **FRONTPAGE**

Now, it's general vs general

By Michael Lim Ubac

All ill the nationality between Senators Edgardo Angara and Pandilo Lacson were not enough, two other senators — both retired generals — figured in their own altercation at yesterday's Senate session.

Taking the rostrum, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon denounced Sen. Alfredo Lim, a member of the minority, for using the word "swapang" (selfish) to describe the 13 senators' majority which had appropriated for itself the discretionary fund of 28 of the 26 standing Senate committees.

Lim inferred the word while interpellating Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile who had chastised the majority for leaving the "garbage" committees to the minority.

"We do not beg for committees—we are not beggars," Enrile had said. He then characterized the position of the nine senators minority bloc to junk the eight "leftover" committees ... on cooperatives; cultural communities; civil service and government reorganization; peace, unification and reconciliation; public information and mass media; social justice, welfare and rural development; urban planning, housing and resettlement; and youth, women and family relations.

Speaking for the majority, Biazon said he "took exception" to Lim's statement, and hoped that Lim had uttered the word "selfish" out of the majority's supposed "arrogance" in the matter of the disparity."

Lim then stood up to refute Biazon, but was preempted by

Majority leader Francis Pangilinan who moved to suspend the session for one minute.

During the break, Aquino-Sumulong tried to approach Lim, who was seated on the other side of the aisle, and Lim quickly stood up to face Biazon.

With only the veterans separating them, the two senators exchanged heated words, and might have come to blows, had not the other senators intervened.

When the session resumed, Lim told the chamber that he had merely been pointing out the disparity in the allocation of chairmanships even among the majority senators when he or she/she used "swapang."

He protested Biazon's "ugly gesture" manner in standing up and coming toward the rostrum.

"I think, if I may interpret that, it was a provocation. He ran honorable gentleman here. I do hope that dialog will pass, and I didn't mean to hurt the feelings of the gentleman from Muntinlupa, much less was I making that he was exerting a three-man dominance. I was speaking in a general sense," Lim said.

Biazon heads the committee on national defense and housing.

KNP offered Ping P400M to withdraw–aide

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE OPPOSITION leadership in Cagayan de Oro City was offered P400 million to withdraw its endorsement of Pwd. Atty. Lacson for the May 10 elections, an adviser to Lacson said yesterday.

In a statement, Lacson's political adviser Angelito Banayo said the money was to reimburse the senator for his campaign expenses.

Banayo said the KNP through its campaign manager Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay also offered Lacson his choice of Cabinet members in a five administration but Lacson rejected the [illegible] offer.

Banayo said he made the statement to counter Sen. Edgardo Angara's claim that it was Lacson who had demanded reimbursement of his campaign expenses, and the right to name half of Noy's Cabinet in a condition for his withdrawal from the presidential race.

Sen. and Lacson both ran against President Macapagal-Arroyo, effectively splitting the opposition and ensuring Ms Arroyo's victory. Businessman Lim to unify the opposition before the election between Angara and Makati City Mayor Agapito "Butz" Aquino, leader of the other faction of the opposition, all came to naught.

Banayo said the Noy and Lacson camps met on May 2 in an attempt to unify and it was there that Binay made the offer.

The meeting was held in Aquino's Makati office where Lacson was represented by Banayo. Binay and Sen. Juan Flavier, Rep. Ronaldo Zamora, while Noy was represented by Mmay Sen. Gregorio Honasan and Bicos Rene Rep. Linet Marcos.

"Sir [Binay] said that if Noy want to become President, Ping could be the Senate President and either Butz or Binay [Honasan] could be Speaker," Banayo said.

He said Binay then talked about "reinforcement of campaign expenses."

Banayo said Binay referred to the rumored P500-million payoff between the camps of President Arroyo and Raul Roco, another presidential candidate. Lacson asked if the P500 million was paid up-front.

Banayo quoted Binay as saying: "Hindi naman. Madaling maghalukilkilan dyan. Pwede na ito ang P400 million (Not really. What's easier is negotiable. Would P400 million be okay?)"

Binay then went to a video board to point out another "scam of robberies." But Lim involving government positions, and asked what Cabinet positions they wanted for Lacson to give way.

"Nobody from our side uttered a word. Binay repeated his offer, adding, 'Ito! Ang cabinet [Cabinet level positions]' Halimbawa Customs or BIR (Even with Cabinet posts like Customs or BIR could be negotiated)," Banayo quoted Binay as saying.

Banayo said Lacson rejected the "terms of reference" given by Binay.

But Lacson told them he would continue talking to Noy's camp, "just in case they won't say I snubbed them," Banayo said.

Yesterday, after a network caucus, Angara and Lacson agreed to a "consolidation" in the word vote that required between them but senators trust Lacson's membership in the opposition.

The consolidation came hours after Banayo released his statement.

Palace: Mindanao no terrorists haven

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Alexis Pogo

MALACAÑANG yesterday talked at the description of the Philippines—Mindanao in particular—as a haven for terrorists by the United States independent commission which investigated the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington.

"The report is outdated and clearly is no more in reflecting the latest on the Philippines where we have already neutralized some [terrorists] threats," said presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye in a statement.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines also objected to the 9/11 commission's description of Mindanao, saying the military had done a lot to degrade the capabilities and activities of terrorists on the southern island.

"I think it's a wrong description of what Mindanao is at present. I don't think it is a haven. When you say haven, that means there is permanent control of an area on the ground," said AFP spokesperson Lt. Col. Ernesto Guerrero yesterday.

The Abu Sayyaf Group has been operating in Mindanao for the past decade while jemaah group reports have said that around 40 members of the Indonesia-based Armed Islamists, a terror group said to links to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, are hiding out in a mountain range in Lanao del Sur where they are reportedly training local terrorists.

The military had in fact uncovered a number of safehouses of these two groups in Metro Manila and Mindanao.

Bunye said President Macapagal-Arroyo has "fought terrorism like nobody before."

"We had been up against terrorism even before 9/11 and that is why we were the first to join the global fight against terror," he said.

"Since then, we have successfully smashed offensives that have virtually crippled the Abu Sayyaf and pushed the JI deep underground," he added.

The President said last week the recent arrest of two local JI operatives who were suspects in the bloody Valentine Day bombings in Metro Manila four years ago was proof the Philippines was a "strong link" in the global fight against terror.

US renews order classifying CPP-NPA as terrorist group

WASHINGTON—The United States has renewed an order classifying the insurgent Communist Party of the Philippines as a foreign terrorist organization, government public notice said.

The decision was made by Secretary of State Colin Powell based on a review of materials and consultations with the attorney general and the Secretary of the Treasury, according to a public notice issued by the department.

The Communist Party of the Philippines, also known as the CPP, and its guerrilla wing, the [illegible] New People's Army (NPA), have been waging a Maoist insurgency for the last 35 years.

The CPP-NPA and the al-Qaida-linked Moslim Abu Sayyaf guerrillas were designated foreign terrorist groups by Washington after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks by Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terror network.

While Moro rebels are largely limited to Mindanao, the communist are known to be active in scattered areas throughout the nation.

In their latest actions, the communist guerrillas took two government soldiers hostage in March.

AFP

REAL ESTATE

E-mail: pi_real_estate@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Cesar G. Hangaran

Upscale property developer eyes yuppies for QC project

By Charlen E. Bakan

SEEING signs of the high-end sector's steady recovery from the doldrums of the late '90s (i.e. the height of the financial crisis), One Asia Developments Corp. is now looking at a particular group belonging to this sector as core market for its one-billion-peso townhouse and walk-up condominium project in Diliman, Quezon City.

The upscale property developer believes young, urban professionals have met the means and resolve to invest in a property that is attuned to their taste and preference.

"They are highly successful in their chosen field or profession and with their hard-earned wealth, they only expect the best value for their money in which The Celebrity Place offers," company president Vic Monasterio revealed.

He said this group of buyers is one of the few who has clearly but sorely been abiding whatever excess supply of high-rise projects and high-end condominium units that were left from 1996-to-98 were launched during the height of the financial crisis).

Strategically located in QC

"The Celebrity Place is conveniently located in Quezon City where it has access to two major highways—Don Mariano Marcos and Batasan-Antipolo (via Batasan-San Mateo)—that lead to key destinations in Metro Manila," he said.

Monasterio added that this accessibility would give the young, urban professionals a greater convenience to whatever they are engaged in.

"At the same time, if they also want to be near a place where they can overlook their once-a-year busy mind of work-related worries, The Celebrity Place would definitely rank high on their list," he reasoned.

State-of-the-art center

This is because The Celebrity Place is located right beside the country's state-of-the-art sports and fitness center, the Celebrity Sports Club that offers an Olympic-size swimming pool, four indoor tennis courts, a 18-hole golfing course, three outdoor badminton courts, an indoor basketball court, a golf clinic, a spa and health center, a beauty salon, an aerobics and dance hall, a professional-level gym, two restaurants, a bar, an function café and a grand ballroom not to mention facilities for children such as the kiddie pool and splash pool or water slides.

"Not everybody could just enter there as (that is a members-only establishment. But for those who will get a unit at The Celebrity Place, they automatically enjoy the privilege of being a club member, but complete to the very exclusive establishment," Monasterio informed.

AS RESIDENT of The Celebrity Place (with completed units shown in background), one can enjoy the benefit of being a club member and get access to the Celebrity Sports Club's various amenities including an Olympic-size pool.

Initial offering

Initially, The Celebrity Place will open its P600 million development project composed of 38 townhouses and 71 condominium units situated within a two-hectare portion of the property's total area of almost 20 hectares.

The Mediterranean-inspired community designed by renowned architect Rolando Mercado (of Rolando Mercado Design Associates) combines country-style living with upscale sports and leisure facilities.

The Celebrity Place condominium units come in different sizes: a studio with a floor area of 31 sq m (average price of P1.9 million), a one-bedroom unit with a floor area of 46 sq m (average price of P3.1 million), a two-bedroom unit with a floor area of 80 sq m (average price of P5.1 million), and a three-bedroom unit with a floor area of 139 sq m and a garden area of 21.46 sq m (average price of P8.5 million).

Moreover, a condo-owner gets to have one parking slot, which is already included in the unit selling price.

The idea is for the buyers to choose which unit size would best fit their individual preferences," explained Monasterio.

Discount to cash buyers

He added that a 10-percent discount is open cash buyers and 40-percent discount to spot buyers paying 30-percent down payment on a unit readily being offered.

The typical payment term is 10 percent down payment on the spot, 20 percent payable in six, 12, or 18 months with 70 percent balance payable through bank financing.

One Asia has partnered with reputable financing institutions to assist buyers in availing of bank financing.

"Buying a condo unit at The Celebrity Place is a good investment. Apart from its prime location, one is entitled to the benefits of being a club membership assignee at a cost lower than its P2 million," Monasterio revealed.

For those who still secure money, The Celebrity Place also offers installment terms with down payment of 1.69 sq m (average price of P1.6 million), 1.79 sq m (average price of P1.5 million), 2.21 sq m (average price of P1.6 million).

A PREVIEW OF "LA DOLCE VITA"

Brittany Corp. recently inaugurated at Portofino Heights the Ibaran-inspired swimming pool with lap and kiddie sections exclusively for residents. The pools offer a preview of the opulent lifestyle that residents will enjoy. Portofino Heights also offers amenities such as a grand clubhouse, fountains, basketball and tennis courts, a river park, barbecue pit, courtyards, nature jogging trails, a colonnade and a pool terrace.

Space for plants even in small condos

By Tessa R. Salazar

SPACE is no problem. As long as you have sunlight—direct or under, not—you can take care of plants.

The US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) has it all studied many types of plants in an environment where space is very expensive—inside modules of a space ship. Nasa scientists have identified nearly 1,000 types they have observed to have survived and cleaned the air inside the space modules.

A part of your home

If even a tin can such as a space module can harbor plants, why not your own space? Just consider it a part of your home, teacher and Bonsai advocate, advising condo unit owners to make plants a part of your home.

Bruce stressed that having plants—or bonsais—in your home—is to be connected with nature, especially to those condo living but home is "detached" from nature.

There are no cut and dry rules in designing Bora into homes dwelling. Rather, it all depends on how the home dwellers would feel inside. The more people living in the house, the more plants there should be.

Those going on vacation will be living. A series of well-timing a size living well," said Bruce.

About 15,000-strong Bonsai fans gather home to SP Talisman, Quezon City, instead aficionados Darby Bruce wants a collection of up to 600 bonsai materials neatly parked in a 300-sq. m garden in 75 Calypso Avenue, Greenmeadows Subdivision, Quezon City.

Acropolis in front of Greenwood.

Taking care of bonsais

And Bruce: "You could put four to six bonsais in a corner. It would be much better if you have a veranda because you would then have a place to expose your bonsai to sunlight. Sunlight is an important ingredient for the growth of bonsai. If you take care of them well, they would even bear fruit with that size."

In fact, he said, his prize-winning bonsai is a guava tree.

Bruce added that bonsais could live up to 100 years. The older the bonsai, the more valuable they become. Also, the bigger it is, the higher its price tag. Popular priced ones fall between pp for P800, P1,500, P2,000 or P3,500. Bigger bonsais cost up to P30,000. A big, old bonsai can fetch as much as P120,000.

Giving life to your house

"Bonsais and fare plants, for that matter, give life to your house or even to houses they produce oxygen. It lengthens your life. But you also have to take care of your bonsai. If you don't have time, you can always hire the services of your supplier to visit you every now and then to make care of the bonsai for you," Bruce said.

He cited his favorite bonsai varieties: Antonio's Serissa, mulaberry, yellow ding, Banyan tree (Ficus Benguhi) and Shefflera.

Said Bruce: "Bonsais are normally placed on high-pedestals—sometimes even higher. It would be more attractive and far more appreciated at close levels. Small bonsais can be put in corners, big ones look good on tables."

He said, however, that many interior designers and architects aren't that familiar with bonsais. Thus, the bonsai's place in the home ultimately depends on the owner.

Give and take affair

He has 38 years of experience cultivating bonsais. In that span of time, this unassuming man with the green thumb has learned that taking care of bonsais and plants for that matter, is always a give-and-take affair.

Said Bruce: "Though they provide a better quality of life for us, bonsais also require from us time and devotion. They have souls. They also have sex, and they can also die from drowning (overwatering) or dehydration (underwatering)."

Repair, restore tiles as easy as 1, 2, 3

PET are said to the perennial problems of crushed, loose or faded wall or floor tiles. Since your budget a cost and let your floor or kitchen tiles have a durable, beautiful and colorful finish with company-specific Serosita Tile Adhesive and Serosita Tile Grout.

Both products work in tandem and are proven to deliver superior performance. The result of Ameon Marketing's research, both products were developed until these results were rigid testing to ensure they will be able to literally "stand the test of time."

Serosita Tile Adhesive is a premixed mortar used to bond tiles on floor or wall surfaces. It provides better coverage and superior adhesion—up to a 12 square meters area per 25-kilogram bag only as it's more economical. Resistance to moisture, fungi, sulphuric acid, and is effectively prevents tiles from cracking.

Serosita Tile Grout is specially blended from premium, selected high-quality performance cement fillers, pigments and additives. It is also mold and mildew resistant. When water is added to the product, it becomes a creamy paste. After the paste sets, the tile grout becomes hard. The available colors to choose from are pink, red, gray sky blue, white, green, brown and black.

Both products are exclusively distributed by Ameon Marketing.

What you need to do when termites trouble your home

HOUSEOWNERS not totally frazzle by miscellaneous expenses due to unwelcome repairs and maintenance. But a middle-class homeowner who spends practically his life savings building a decent home will surely feel the sense of crushing if termites or other pests become unwelcome.

In 1998, husband and wife Mike and Pinky Gaskan and their two kids moved to a very charming middle-class subdivision in Laguna. A year later, when they decided to extend their house, the Gaskans discovered that termites had invaded in their home. They did what most Filipino homeowners would have done—they paid a termite control company to drill and bore through the house and spray chemicals around the property.

The termite-control company charged them a lot of money and they slept worry-free thinking they had licked the problem—until the second phase of termite infestation. The guy doing the paint job contacted Mike's office to say there was "no smiling in paint", what was left was a mere shell of the roof, up—termites have gnawed through the wood completely.

Termite trouble in office

Mike and Pinky work in the same office, a company that manufacturers agricultural and garden corner hoses around the time the Gaskans were having their house renovated, their company was also experiencing termite problems. The office was looking for a termite extinguisher to prevent its three-decade plant.

Enter, Pest Control & General Services Corp., an online listed-up Control Termites Services (Colony Elimination System) and owned by Gilbert Bandola, made a presentation in Mike's company about the biology and lifestyle of termites and how better to take advantage of ancient world's behavior to get termites where they live. Developed by Dow Agrosciences, Sentricon Termite Colony Elimination System is the termite control that promises "No More Chemicals, No Mess." Mike's office, the Master of Liberty, other business establishments, and many homes and property owners use Sentricon.

Bandola's presentation was impressive and made good sense by what the finance people learned about the cost. On price-per-square-meter basis, Sentricon would definitely rank high on their list," he reasoned.

Sentricon Mike, the company's finance supervisor—"When we asked how much it would cost us to install Sentricon, we were knocked out. I knew the company wouldn't agree to spend so much just to get rid of termites since they were also experiencing termite problems. The office was looking for a termite extinguisher to prevent its three-decade plant.

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Cost-effective solution

But the finance guy did a good sleuthing job. Mike uncovered all company documentation on estimated computations for repair and maintenance over the past 10 years and discovered that recurring renovations had cost the company a whopping P1.8 million! Add to this the statistical cost of construction, the company area, in fact, already spending an incredible amount due to termite infestation.

Mike then explained the cost-effectiveness of using Sentricon to the top executives and was given the green light. Sentricon went to work on the property and after a few months, the termite colonies were eliminated. Sentricon's monitoring says they haven't been called in to make repairs at the Gaskan's home.

FROM LEFT are Mike Gaskan and his wife Pinky with Entom marketing manager Cynthia Alexa Melendres and president Elmer Bandola.

Then there really was nothing to repair.

The success story prompted Mike to use Sentricon for his home. "I wanted to be smart about it so I contacted Entom to make a survey and to see property to prevent further damage."

According to Elmer, the area where the Gaskans reside was once a sugarcane plantation. Even as the place was cleared and homes were built, termites continue to thrive on the area.

Deferred payment option

Mike the Sentricon specialist knew his family was paying good money to protect their home against termites. But what about other and elite class homeowners who are about their homes but may not have enough budget to put the initial cost of installing Sentricon?

To address this problem, Entom now offers credit card payment through Bank of the Philippine Islands and Metrobank to even budget-conscious homeowners who can afford to give their homes the best protection possible through installments of 3, 6, 9, 12 months or up to two years.

For as little as P3,000 per month, families can have their homes installed with the revolutionary Sentricon System.

Protecting investment

Mike now talks about Sentricon with the zeal of a true convert. "We're very glad about our decision—discovery. I say discovery because I learned so many things about termites, how infestations happen and how termite infestation can affect the value of a home. So when my friends complain about termites, I tell them to call Entom and get Sentricon."

He tells them that Sentricon may seem costly at the start but you actually save money in the long run. "You'll have nothing to worry about in the succeeding years, that's how well the system works," he exclaims.

Pinky tells Pesky agency, "We may not be in a spreading business but we know we don't have to worry in our home." For inquiries, please call Entom at 868-0255, 889-2681 or 842-4748 and Distributorship at 478-1998, 478-1999, 849-3834. You can also check their website: www.entom.com.ph.

US envoy says RP no longer part of coalition

From page A1

do to true, when Iraqi insurgents had threatened to behead.

The US senator and other aides were flustered by the move, saying it amounted to caving in to terror and would endanger the safety of other foreign troops who had chosen to remain in Iraq.

Hours before his impromptu remarks, and the Philippine pullout did occur, relatives

"I wouldn't suggest to you that nothing happened. We did have a very serious disagreement. At one point, we stayed in our hotels and asked the Philippines, as well as our allies and the Iraqi, not their's on continuing that," the senator said.

Reuters bureau also confirmed US senior department spokesperson Richard Boucher's statement last week that the Philippines was no longer considered part of the US-led coalition.

"Boucher's made a statement, I thought that it was very clear and I don't know what more we can add to it," Bocobo said. "If he's made very clear what he was talking about. I have nothing to add."

By no stretch words, the airline official implied there was disagreement between their countries, DFA officials said the Philippine government had made the pullout possible backlash from the United States.

"We are not all the fools yet," a DFA official said, according to Reuters. "They would still impose sanctions quickly. They don't have to announce it to public that they are withdrawing."

The "readiness for evaluation" was one of the results of an assessment made by DFA officials a few days after he left for was released, according to diplomatic sources.

One may be which the White House could "retaliate" against the Philippines is by delaying or reducing development aid supposed to be given to the country under President George W. Bush's "Millennium Challenge Account," they said.

Another possibility is the denial of lucrative contracts to Philippine firms that want to take part in the Iraqi reconstruction. The contracts are supposed to be given preferentially to countries that joined or refused from it," Bocobo said. "If he's made very clear what he was talking about. I have nothing to add."

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"We are not all the fools yet," a DFA official said, according to

Only 'in general terms'

"I would associate myself to the statement made by the secretary of foreign affairs," Bocobo said.

But while Albert and Bocobo have highlighted in their statements the goodwill between their countries, DFA officials said the Philippines should not make the pullout possible backlash from the United States.

"We are not all the fools yet," a DFA official said, according to

No decision yet

Asked by a reporter if the Philippines remained "a major non-Nato ally," a designation announced by Washington last year, Bocobo only replied, "I don't think we've taken any decision with respect to that. It goes on."

The designation of the Manila ensures access to US defense equipment and supplies.

In late prepared statement, Albert said her fruitful meeting with Macapagal-Arroyo "symbolized our bilateral relationship remains vibrant."

The ties between the two countries "go beyond any disagreements we may have had over the issue on Iraq ... [and will] continue as to be strong because of the deep respect we have for each other," Albert added.

Bocobo echoed the same hope.

"There are things that are important to both of our countries. We respect that, we look forward to continuing to work together on that," the ambassador said.

No yielding to terror

Albert said Manila subscribed to the "multilateral force which is being assembled" created by the United States on Aug. 4.

The US declaration, later adopted by other coalition members, laid down a policy of continuing support for Iraq's rehabilitation despite increasing terror attacks and abductions of foreigners by Iraqi militants.

"The Philippines will continue to do what it can, within its capabilities and pursuant to its interests in helping the people of Iraq," Albert said.

The alien continues to condemn the attacks of terrorists in Iraq, the attacks on innocent civilians and others to have condemnation and horror."

But the secretary said the humanitarian acknowledged century-old ties that were tightened by common political traditions and world wars fought together.

Albert added that, on the Iraq issue, there was "a basis for the many areas of agreement." She pointed out the Philippines' chairmanship of the 57th Security Council Resolution No. 1546, which formally restored Iraq's sovereignty and authorized a US-led multinational force to help the interim government keep the peace.

Albert said cooperation with the US would continue in other areas. This was echoed by Bocobo alone, who said: "We're going to work as hard as we can on all of the things that are important to both of our countries."

Albert cited the joint military training exercises between Filipino and American troops scheduled for throughout the year, the upcoming meeting of the 10+3 Mutual Defense Board, the US-backed modernization of the armed forces of the Philippines, the peace talks and post-satellite rebuilding in Mindanao which they considered issues also supported, and the visit in September of an investment mission of the US-based Business Council.

Support for GMA

Until the lie by Iraqi hostage crisis erupted, Mr Arroyo has been hailed as one of Asia's staunchest backers of the US-led coalition in Iraq, and the global war on terror. The Philippines is also a leading recipient of US military counterterrorism training assistance.

"We have not (repeatedly) we're disappointed that they decline, but we're continuing to cooperate in a variety of ways on the global war against terrorism," DFA Assistant Undersecretary Rodolfo Severino said.

Still, it might be comforting for Ms Arroyo to know that when the opposition over whether or not to pull out Filipino troops from Iraq last week, there was no such backlash in Los Angeles who sympathized with her.

Visiting US-based Filipino Bishop Oscar A. Solis yesterday recalled that he took part on 9th Avenue when she found herself in the middle of the hostage of the abduction of De la Cruz.

"I had said if a government leader has to come to a situation where he has to make a decision for anybody. The decision of President Macapagal-Arroyo was a very unpopular decision," he said.

Solis, 56, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, however, said that while the move increased the country's risks from earth to allies, this saved the life of one person.

"In reality, we're saving the life of an individual. The value of life is very important," he told reporters.

The bishop also hinted that Manila did not deserve the criticisms that came its way in the wake of the pullout, stating that it had to decide "what is good" for its people, especially those needing rescuing.

"It's a sovereign nation," he said.

Solis, however, said the pullout was not a "big issue" among the 400,000 Filipinos living in Los Angeles.

"I would say that my task is to extend my support and blessings that God will inspire for (Ms Arroyo) and the Holy Spirit will help her to come up with proper decisions on how to lead the country," said Solis, who is to call on the President some time this week.

"I have been challenging it is for a leader of the nation to be confronted by such issues."

Solis is in the Philippines to lead the celebration on Aug. 15 of the 400th anniversary of the Manila Archdiocese. Sometime in glamorous Ong Sia since sooner where his more taught after college and became in dean after his ordination.

He said he was also taking this opportunity to touch base and "renew" his relationship with classmates, seminary "formators" and friends. *With reports from Ed Marganski*

'Twins' mom faces quandary

From page A1

patients as "becoming back like all a allegation."

The procedure that the agency arm underwent differed from previous separations in that of the surgical team, performed four operations over several months. The boys and their mother arrived from Manila in September last year with the help of the Philippine airlines Foundation. The foundation also flew Dorbalan in last week.

Private room

All the doctors and the two hospitals involved—the Children's Hospital at Montefiore Medical Center (CHMC) and the Rhykerlan Children's Hospital in Valhalla, where the Aguirres used to stay between operations—are donating their services.

Now, he was back in a private room in CHAM's intensive care unit if she needs to sleep, but she spends nearly all her time with her sons.

"She's still trying to get over, I think, the whole topic," Ruffin-Long said. "I can't imagine what it must be like for her to finally see them in separate beds."

Arlene told "Inquirer NEC" that she had big dreams for her sons.

"What I'm really planning for them if I really can afford, is for them to go to medical school," she said in an interview aired Sunday. "One is the neurosurgeon and one is the plastic surgeon."

But his immediate hopes are small: "I'm hoping I can see them running, walking ... just like normal babies." AP

Gorilla, who speaks sign language, calls for dentist

From page A1

KOKO: she 230 pound gorilla who conversas in sign language, is drawn in 1985 file photo admiring her own tattoo.

become famous for mastering more than 1,000 signs, began telling her handlers at the Gorilla Foundation in Woodside that she was in pain. They quickly concluded a gum disease, offering Koko a tooth brush on to 26.

When Koko started pointing to side at 10 too often, a dental appointment was made. And because anesthesia would be involved, her handlers used the opportunity to give Koko a head-to-toe exam.

Feeling bad

"She's quite articulate," said retired Alameda dentist said. "After [Koko knew] she was feeling, how bad the pain is. It looked like it was time to do something."

Twelve specialists—a trained cardiologist, three anesthesiologists, three dentists, an ear and throat specialist, two veterinarians, a gastroenterologist and a gynecologist—volunteered to help.

"It's not often that we get to work on a celebrity," said Dr David Lamp, an assistant professor of medicine at Stanford. "Probably Koko is less demanding."

The team came to Koko on Sunday, bringing portable X-ray and ultrasound machines. They set up shop in her "apartment," which looks like a remodeled home, complete with a makeshift

toilet, television, DVD player and lots of toys.

After four hours of tests—including a colonoscopy, gastroscopy, dental work, X-rays and ultrasounds—doctors pronounced Koko fit.

Koko, who celebrated her 33rd birthday on July 4, was due for a checkup. While gorillas in captivity are known to live into their 50s, they are susceptible to heart disease and a thickening of the arteries.

Biological problems

Koko and Ndume, her partner of 11 years (he doesn't "speak"), have been trying unsuccessfully to have a baby. The doctors thought the checkup could help them know whether Koko had any biological problems preventing it. She doesn't.

Koko's teacher, Francine Patterson, was at her student's side when the anesthesiologist prepared to put the gorilla under in the morning.

Apparently, Koko also asked to meet her specialists.

Playing favorites

They crowded around her, and Koko, who plays favorites, asked one woman wearing red to come closer. The woman handed her a business card, which Koko promptly ate.

Otherwise, Koko was calm, Lamp said.

The Gorilla Foundation has studied gorilla intelligence by teaching American Sign Language to Koko and another gorilla, Michael, who died in 2000. AP

Corrections

IN THE Aug. 7 issue, a front page story—"Most Pinoys don't believe GMA won, says survey"—misstated that Ibon Foundation consultant Tom Tullado was connected with the UP School of Statistics. The information was provided by Maria de los Santos, Ibon Foundation's media and publications officer. Tullado is faculty member of SP Iloilo and a Ph.D. student at UP Diliman's College of Social Sciences and Philosophy.

* * *

IN THE Aug. 8 issue, a Lifestyle story on Page 30—"Loyalist subscribe to Quezon fish port"—misstated the location of the Malabon fish port. The fish port is in Lucena City—not Bgy Iyam, Quezon.

* * *

THE PHOTO "Memorial to romance and history," which was published Aug. 8 on Page C1 of the Lifestyle section, identified one of the house owners in Lucena City as the Quezon family. The owners family name is Quezon.

* * *

IN THE Aug. 8 issue, a story on Page A8—"Millions of voters on premier"—misstated that the nonvote protest by the group Tri Power could be the first cyber protest in the country. There had been previous cyber protests in the Philippines. In November 2000, the website pipo.com launched an anti-Erap campaign. In September 2001, "Open Up GMA" was launched to protest the arrest of Arroyo's predecessor, to reduce fuel rate and messages. There were also cyber protests at the height of the impeachment case against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. last year.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for corrections of factual errors in writing to Inq7.net, City editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 40 Mother Ignacia Ave., Quezon City; fax 924-4891; or e-mail to cityeditor@inquirer.com.ph. Please include your full name, address and telephone number so these can be verified. Corrections about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Inquirer Ombudsman Sheila Coronel, the same address, or e-mail to ombudsman@inquirer.com.ph.

'Jesus-Mary' book doesn't impress Fil-Am bishop

From page A1

the controversial hypothesis that Jesus Christ and Mary Magdalene had been lovers.

The bayonets asked about the book in an interview yesterday. It's a figment of the author's imagination," the bishop said.

Solis—who on February became the first Filipino-born person to be ordained a bishop in the United States—is in town for a two-week vacation. He has been based in America for 25 years and is now auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

'Code' virus

He conceded that the surprise novel endorsed by Gina Bravura and released last year was a "sensation" in the US. Local book lovers have caught the "Code" virus.

The bishop pinned on that Bravura's convincing power came mostly from a talent for creating portions of fiction to existing historical places, like the Louvre in Paris, or finding a connection with art pieces like "Mona Lisa," Leonardo da Vinci's famous painting, "The Last Supper."

Solis explained further: "Bravura is very ingenious man to have utilized concrete, objective representations, and then tied impact or surprise his personal opinion and understanding of what happened. I mean, he was brilliant in that sense because he was able to maximize his talent for creating situations in order to make a connection to And controversy is always a selling point."

Actually, he hadn't read the book because, as he told the bayonets, "I have more pressing things to read about."

Even so, he is often approached by parishioners who want to know "if it's true." Solis said he would usually tell back: "From which section of the store did you get that book?" Because the answer would invariably be "fiction," he would dispense this piece of advice: "You don't take everything you read as a factual representation of the truth."

The reason is any Catholics should steer clear call the "Code," the bishop clarified. He's just saying, "We should take it with a grain of salt."

'Ethnic ministry'

Solis, 50, met members of the press yesterday at his sister Delia's residence in White Plains subdivision in Quezon City. As an auxiliary bishop, he is tasked with pursuing an "ethnic ministry" in the US archdiocese, where he is now conducting a study on the special "issues, concerns and needs" of his flock, which includes some 600,000 Filipinos.

Among those who often approach him for guidance "are just in limbo—their status hereof," he said. "Illegal—consular workers or immigrants who miss loved ones left behind in the Philippines, and those who "feel guilty" about leaving their sons going parents in nursing homes.

"I explain to them that we have to make decisions ... that God would find for themselves what is best," Solis said.

The faithful should not be confused; this last piece of advice is far-non-fiction stuff.

FILIPINO-AMERICAN Bishop Oscar Asuncion Solis visits his sister's house in White Plains, Quezon City

14 out of 51 cases solved, says PNP of media deaths

By Christian V. Esguerra

UNDER pressure by media groups, the Philippine National Police yesterday said it had solved 14 out of the 51 cases of journalists killed in the last 20 years.

Although the crime solution rate is less than 10 percent, PNP spokesman Chief Supt. Jose Calimag said it showed that the PNP did not sporadically come up empty-handed in solving the killings of journalists.

"When we say a case has been solved, we mean that a case has been filed and perpetrators have been sent to jail," he told the Inquirer.

But Calimag said a case was considered closed even if not all of the perpetrators, including the mastermind, had been reported and subsequently charged in court.

The PNP said three journalists were killed by communist rebels who ambushed a military convoy which included the victims.

At least two journalists were also killed during the series of coup attempts in the late 1980s, according to Calimag.

The rest of the cases involved journalists killed by hired guns, he said.

The PNP is hoping to stop the killings of journalists by creating Task Force Newsmen, a composite team of Criminal Investigation and Detection Group and Intelligence Group operatives.

Calimag said a reporter receiving death threats can go to the task force for help. If the threat is found to be credible, the reporter will be provided appropriate assistance, he said.

Another measure in the absence of present or news firearms outside of residence (PFOJOR) to journalists facing threats.

AFP: It's Palace call to stop military operation

By Alcuin Papa and Norman Bordadora

[illegible] to Malacañang to declare a suspension of military offensives United against the New People's Army in order to pave the way for the release of the two soldiers the communist rebels are holding, a military spokesperson said yesterday.

Lt. Col. Delfin Lazaro said the military was not in a position to declare a Sotto to Gutierrez but said Albay as demanded by the MNLA as a condition for the release of Lt. Romulo Feliciano and Pfc. Ronel Sinsuba.

"We are not the official body to issue a Sotto. We take orders from our political leaders," Lazaro told reporters yesterday.

But in part, the Philippine Army as a matter of policy does "not negotiate with [how international terrorists," said Mr. spokesperson Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual.

"Our duty as soldiers as mandated by the Constitution is to prevent commission of the state. If the [NPA] is really talking about humanitarian considerations, [the hostages] should be released unconditionally," Pascual told the hostages in a phone interview.

The MNLA said Sunday it was postponing the release of the two soldiers because of the continuing military offensive against it in the Bicol region. It said the two servicemen have been freed last week following an agreement between the National Democratic Front, the umbrella organization of the communists in the country, and the government. The rebels said they "had no choice but to cancel the release with regret."

Feliciano and Sinsuba were captured by the MNLA Bonsalo Alberto Command on March 7 this year following an encounter in Barangay Banao, Tiwi, Albay.

Feliciano's wife Leah had appealed to the NPA to release her husband in time for the second birthday of their daughter Alea Nicole on Aug. 26.

Jose Gregorio "Ka Roger" Bond, spokesperson of the Communist Party of the Philippines, said yesterday the military wants an evening the two "prisoners of war" instead of allowing the MNLA to effect a peaceful turnover of the captives.

"The military does not want the public to see a safe and orderly release of the POWs and instead insists on pursuing its enemy operations in order to show off, despite [illegible] Bond said.

Bond's statements drowned the chances of Feliciano making it home for his daughter's birthday.

GMA wants more studies on BNPP

Front page, A1 >

Malaya yesterday said that Mr. Arroyo was determined to pursue her energy independence program until it outlasts the proposed conversion of the mothballed nuclear facility into a gas-fired project.

The fate of the Bataan plant will now depend on the outcome of a "technical feasibility" study being conducted by the Department of Energy, he said.

Asked if the conversion of the plant in Morong town was no longer a priority of Ms. Arroyo, Bunye said: "We're not saying that. We're saying that there are many other initiatives and the others can go ahead while the technical feasibility on this power plant is being prepared.

"We have to live with the reality of a global oil crunch in the future. The most ordinary oil options to ensure our economic future," he said.

Scientists also up in arms

Several Instigators here, especially opposed the idea of refitting the Bataan plant to make it operate on natural gas, contending it was a rehash of old ideas already discarded by past administrations and would be neither time-bonding nor entirely new plants nor environment-friendly.

Yesterday, a group of Filipino scientists also opposed the conversion plan, saying it would only leave the country shackled to foreign energy and would not address the issue of safe nuclear energy as well as sufficiency.

Built in 1984 during the regime of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, the Bataan plant has been a thousand bodies for the country, which consumes to pay $1,000 a day to run it even after it has shut the plant. The entire foreign-funded project is estimated to have cost more than $2 billion.

Ms. Arroyo cited the anniversary of the Bataan plant but would reflect the rationale for a five-point program to achieve energy independence announced on the month-or-by next year of four idle power facilities, including the one in Morong.

Malacañang backtracks

The Palace has since backtracked from the idea.

"In other words, the DOE will be subjecting the feasibility study for right now. I think we can proceed with the other items in the energy independence program of the President," Bunye said in a briefing.

"Whatever we have then, we would go ahead with the other items here ... so that we will be able to dampen the effects of the increase in [oil] prices."

"We will push ahead with the essential items in the President's energy independence package, such as the more extensive use of natural gas, developing coco diesel, and refining alternative sources of energy to stabilize prices and supply in the long term," Bunye said.

The other idle plants like Aboitiz-owned and the wanted to resurrect were the 650-MW Enron and the 650-MW Malaya.

Conversion cost: $600M

In a statement yesterday, the Bataan 19 Representative said the government was trying to somehow justify the huge debt burden we have from the mothballed plant," said Agham national adviser Giovanni Tapang of the University of the Philippines.

An in-house study conducted by independent power producer Korea Electric Power Corp. (Kepco) several years back showed that converting the Bataan plant into a facility using another type of fuel would cost more than $600 million.

Using the industry rule-of-thumb of $1 million per MW of capacity, Napocor and the amount that amount could already bankroll the establishment of an entirely new 600-MW plant.

Why not revive it?

Napocor Philippine Corp. president and chief executive Lee Gil Go said in an earlier interview that rehabilitating the nuclear power facility would be a better option than converting it into something it was not designed for in the first place.

"Rehabilitating the power plant is cheap, but conversion is not feasible. Conversion entails too much cost, so that will make the plant not viable," he said.

"That is why for several years ago [no less than] it will take to operate the plant is around $600 million. But considering the condition of mine, this will be even higher now. With that amount, we'll be able to put up another power plant," he added.

Bold requirements for the Bataan plant would not be completed until 2008.

Administration Sen. Ralph Recto, co-author of the "Bataan" measure, said he had to carry the burden of some $80.6 million more in debt repayments over the coming years.

This year, he said, the government was scheduled to remit payments totaling $38.2 million over two Japanese, one Swiss and two American banks.

The amount that the government had to pay these creditors in 2005 was even bigger than the $600.6 million in the Department of Energy.

Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago, incoming chair of the Senate committee on energy, said the committee of the Bataan plant plan to operate would entail huge expenses.

"What's sad about it is that all this and still the group that would undertake the operation of the plant be willing to take on the debts that the government assumed, not to part?" she asked reporters.

Opposition Sen. Juliano-Lee Angara said he would welcome the idea. "If it is economically viable."

Recto urged the initiation of private individuals in a group that would study the feasibility of reconverting the plant into a gas-powered facility. He mentioned former Sen. Rene Saguisag, former Energy Secretary Delfin Lazaro and whoever UP President Francisco Nemenzo would recommend. With a report from Christine O. Avendaño

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It's now GMA's turn to flirt with the phantom

THE MOTHBALLED Bataan nuclear plant project.

In 1991, then President Fidel V. Ramos ordered the conversion of the facility into a gas-fueled plant.

But a study showed it would be cheaper to build an entirely new one than gas power plant at Morong, nearer to Bataan's natural gas.

Joseph Estrada supposed to be the only President after Marcos who dared not touch the nuclear "dynamite."

'Good vs evil'

He didn't have to. The threat of a major power crisis never surfaced then.

Now, facing the possibility of power shortage in Luzon by 2008 unless the acts urgently is to President Macapagal-Arroyo's time to flirt with the phantom.

Senior National Treasurer Leonor Briones finds a parallel between the Bataan plant story and the "Star Wars" saga, owing to them a "classic tale of good vs. evil."

"What makes the story interesting is that there's no end to it," Briones has said. "The nuclear nightmare refuses to go away. You thought almost it for a while and then it's back in the news again."

D.C. Rojo, PIR Research Bureau

'Txtrs, revolt! Snd no 2 txt-tax 2 JdV'

Front page, A1 >

Briones was among the eight top economic President Macapagal-Arroyo asked Congress to pass last month to help increase the budget deficit, which in the first half reached P80.5 billion, according to government data yesterday. The deficit is expected to hit about P200 billion this year.

Another group of consumers said that no matter what words the government used to describe the tax on text, still people would find it more costly to send text messages.

"They want to call it a tax on windfall profit. But they're substituting the very same thing on everybody," said a consumer who should not contain the people by creating new taxes and/or increasing present tax rates," the Electronic Opposing Taxes on Texting (EOpTax) said in a statement.

20 centavos per text

Malacañang spokesperson Ignacio Arroyo said he had no information on the proposed 20-centavos-per-text message.

He said the government was not resisting for an opposition one, but to help the country recover from the economic crisis brought about by years of corruption and inefficiency in the country.

"The savings on the oil will Notwithstanding the sky-high world prices of crude oil that naturally jacked up the prices of gasoline, diesel and LPG, government still intended to cut the crude duty to 3 percent," Arroyo-Arroyo said.

I'm Power said the tax on text was a dream of the International Monetary Fund that the Arroyo administration accepted hook, line and sinker.

"The government already imposes a 12-percent value-added tax and a 10-percent overseas communications tax on cell phone services. The government is already aware of the reasons why cellular phone services are expensive," Cruz said.

Petition on Internet

TXT Nation Ching Cajipe-Endaya online group's anti-text-tax posted a petition on the Internet and asked supporters to add their names to the document asking Congress to scrap the tax measure.

"While the phone users can sign up to join the protest by sending a text via dedicated cellular phone numbers which would collect all messages. The petition is then going to be passed to Congress.

"We are asking our cell customers to oppose the imposition of the new taxes on our cell phones to participate in the cyber rally," Tec Power said.

"Using the very medium the government wants to tax, we can show how we vehemently oppose these impositions on cell phones since are being penalized as customers."

Popular protest have a history of success in the Philippines, where in 2001 campaigners rallied hundreds of thousands into the streets in a peaceful revolt called Edsa II that toppled then President Joseph Estrada.

Edsa II gathered the protests through text messages that helped unite the enemies and probability of calling the phone service operators.

A text boom also may help further boost the profitability of Smart and Globe, the two biggest cell phone companies in the country.

Smart, a Filipino-control a net income of P11.6 billion in the first six months of the year, up 99 percent from the same period in 2003. Globe registered a net income of 99.9 billion, up 13 percent from the same period last year. With a report from AFP

CONSUMERS groups protest government plan to tax text messages.

Traders, senators warn GMA on oil tax

Front page, A1 >

caused by the oil price increases.

Australian Peter Wallace, head of Wallace Business Forum, said the ax-driving middle class would be hit hard on by the new tax on gasoline but the poor could be spared from the effects of the economy impact of higher oil prices.

Wallace estimated that the oil tax would push up inflation (which jumped to a three-year high of 6 percent last month) by at least half a percentage point and slow down economic growth by the same amount.

He said that while he agreed with the government that raising oil taxes made "good economic sense" because the Philippines had one of the lowest oil prices in the region, the government should also take note that the country was also one of the poorest in Asia.

"The government's need for revenues is pretty desperate but it makes economic sense to do it now with difficult and ill-timed because of the uncertainty over oil prices," Wallace said.

Smuggling

Slapping more taxes on petroleum products will just encourage smuggling, according to Consumer and Oil Price Watch Chair Raul Concepcion.

At the current excise tax levels of P3.63 a liter for diesel, P6.35 a liter for unleaded gasoline and P4.00 per kilogram gasoline, smuggling was already very rampant he said.

"If you increase the taxes by P2, the price difference between gasoline and diesel will be so high that it will encourage smuggling to import gasoline and declare it as diesel," he said.

Instead of slapping more taxes, he said the government should first address inefficient collection. If, in the end, taxes collected would still fall short of government's requirements, then that would be the only appropriate time to hike those taxes, he said.

The Asian Institute of Management's Policy Center same sentiment, saying that the government had already collected the amount it needed to raise from the additional excise taxes on oil products.

Its study showed that the government lost roughly P1.2 billion in revenues in 2003 due to diesel smuggling. This amount translated into around 300,000 liters of diesel oil. Gasoline, kerosene and solvents lost at least much lower than those officials in legitimate dealers.

On a monthly basis, this represented roughly 40 million liters sold all over Luzon and Mindanao.

Last cause

Donald Dee, executive secretary of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the government would be waging a "lost cause" if it pushed for an additional oil tax this year because it would hurt consumers from businesses and economic groups.

Dee said the more practical thing for the government to do now is wait until oil prices stabilize.

He noted that the government had already doubled the excise taxes under existing tariffs on oil products from 3 percent to 5 percent in view of surging oil prices.

In the House, Lapus said Congress was likely to quickly pass bills weakening purchasing power targets for the Bureau of Internal Revenue, a long-delayed inflation indexation of "sin" taxes (alcohol and tobacco) and a proposed tax amnesty.

But he said a plan to shift to a system under gross taxation was likely to prove unsuccessful as many people were not convinced that it would simplify collection and reduce opportunities for corruption.

It was still unclear whether the government would propose to abolish value-added tax or taxes by two percentage points, Lapus said. Officials have given conflicting statements on the issue.

"We have not received any proposal bills from the [Malacañang] Palace ... They are still testing [traders] out," said Lapus, a former banker and oil bust in several past governments.

The last Congress passed a total of four batches of tax-related money lawmakers are grumbling that the government should first patch up the leaky tax collection system before imposing new taxes.

The Senate was likely to be the biggest obstacle to the President's plans, Lapus said. Several senators, some of whom face elections in 2007, have already spoken out against the reforms.

"It is unfortunate who are up for reelection who might convey this into a pro people, anti people sort of election," Lapus said.

Adding gas to fire

Senator Recto believed that "it's the wrong time to hike fuel tax". Senators pushing through with the tax proposal until public cries for relief from high gasoline prices was inconsistent to "adding gasoline to fire."

He pointed out that electricity prices would go up again should the government impose the additional tax on fuel.

"A 10-centavo increase in the excise tax on fuel, which power plants use, would mean close an excise tax on that product would jump 100 percent, or from the present 10 centavos per liter to P1.30 per liter," he said.

He said the drop of the government want to temper, not aggravate, harsh oil price increases.

Sen. Edgardo Angara said there should be a careful study of the proposed tax "because imposing an excise tax of P3 on imported crude will translate to a very substantial amount in the pump price."

But Sen. Miriam Santiago said that raising the excise tax on oil was the "least evil" in finding an "immediate response to a looming financial crisis."

The country, she said, was faced with two options—to agree to an oil tax increase or to increase the value-added tax on consuming the food staple. "It's better to increase oil tax because as is the rich would suffer the burden," Santiago said.

If the VAT is increased, she said that the price of goods which are also bought by the poor would increase. "That is a question of choosing between two evils," she added.

Santiago said that at least unless the oil tax issue reached the committee on energy, which she is to chair, she would hopefully "discover means of dissuading petroleum companies not to pass on the tax to the ultimate consumers so if ever pass on the burden at the minimum to the consumers."

Francis Chua, executive vice president of the Philippine-Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the President was better off leaving for other industries to tax on the oil sector was "too interventionist" with the economy.

Despite the growing opposition, the administration is bent on pushing for a P2 per liter increase in excise.

"Our country needs to urgently address our twin deficit problem. Notwithstanding the projected increase in fuel prices due to this new tax measure, the Philippines will still have the lowest prices of petroleum products in the Asean region," Perlas said in a statement released in Malacañang.

In view of the inflationary impact of the higher excise tax on oil, Pimentel said the government would not support this tax to make it "progressive" so that the impact on the majority of consumers would be mitigated.

He said that a slightly smaller increase, of no more than two centavos per liter, would be more acceptable to the public.

With reports from Michael Lim Ubac, Marlito P. Mayoff and Reuters

Real Estate Investment 101

By Alvin A. Arcilla, Ph.D.

REAL estate has become an investment tool for profit. Instead of putting money in the bank or maybe even stuffing a mattress, many market-savvy individuals invest in real estate. Many have made their fortunes in real estate. There are families who bought real estate many years ago at a few hundred pesos per square meter and who today have skyscrapers as investment bait.

Most of us are enticed into investing in real estate hoping to make a fortune. But only a few people know there are also pitfalls of investing in real estate. Here are some of them:

Risks and myths

Most reliable investing has associated risks and myths that must be considered.

• **Risking the Family Home**—It is perfectly normal to mortgage the home where we first have it. But after we fully pay it, sometimes we offer it as a collateral to buy another property. The common thing to remember is that we have to repay the debt anyway so that we must make sure that we have an adequate source of funds to handle it. When buying an investment property it is best to only use the same property as a collateral and not risk including your personal home.

• **Expecting Immediate Returns**—*Only in a very hot property market that we can double our investment within a year or two.* But this rarely happen during local economic times. We real estate appreciates in value but it would take several years before a gain is realized.

• **You Can Never Lose in Real Estate**—If you buy an investment that has legal problems, then you will be in trouble. Even a high value property that gets infiltrated by illegal occupants could make an investor lose money.

• **If You Cannot Sell, Rent It Out**—Buying and selling real estate is different from leasing. Renting out your property has its own set of problems.

Avoiding the pitfalls

There are a few basic rules to avoiding the pitfalls of real estate investing. These include:

• **Know What You Are Buying**—How you have your own home and you would like to invest in real estate. Remember that you have many choices and these choices would mainly depend on what type of investment would be useful for you or financially beneficial for you in the long term.

It is not wise to buy a property because it is cheap since it has a specific reason for being so. Most of the time, it is better to buy a high value property.

• **Know Where to Buy**—Knowing where to buy means you should know the location where you would want to invest. It is always good to invest in an area near your home since it may be necessary for you to check on the property from time to time. Try to assess your future needs. If you have a growing business now, maybe it may be wise to invest in a commercial property where you would eventually put up your office or warehouse someday.

• **Know How to Buy**—There are many things to check out before you buy a property. If you cannot handle buying yourself and you have many doubts and questions, then it may be wise for you to ask for professional help.

• **Know When to Buy**—There is such a thing as timing in buying. Prior to looking at a property, do your homework by finding those when you would avoid in the future.

• **When in Doubt, Ask**—Buying real estate is a complicated matter for legal matters, ask your legal counsel. For technical matters, ask your engineer. For valuation matters ask your appraiser. You need a team of professionals to be successful in real estate investing.

Final Note: Investing in real estate takes knowledge, patience and, most of all, your personal. Appreciation and good gains occur over a long period of time. It is best that you plan your business carefully for many investors have been in financial ruin mainly because of poor planning and irresponsible borrowing.

E-mail the author at dearealty@pacific.net.ph.

BUILDING DREAMS

Most of us are enticed into investing in real estate hoping to make a fortune. But only a few people know there are also pitfalls of investing in real estate

FACADE of the new Ortigas Home Depot

Ortigas Home Depot now open

THE NEW Ortigas Home Depot located at No. 1 Doña Julia Vargas Ave. corner Meralco Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City is finally open.

With its complete 25,000-square meter lot, the Ortigas Home Depot is a one-stop, fully stocked and well-organized outlet that is the perfect place to shop for all your homeowner needs.

The Ortigas Home Depot has the largest furniture area with over 6,000 square meters of retail floor space plus a "pre-homeowner" with a complete line of cement and glass care products plus a professional per-use service center.

Second home depot project

The Ortigas Home Depot is owned and operated by CW Marketing and Development Corporation, a joint venture between Cebu Overseas Hardware Co. Inc. and West Point Industrial Sales Co. Inc.

With over 30 years experience in hardware and construction requirements, this is the second home depot project of Cebu Overseas Hardware Co. Inc. which also established the first Cebu Home Builders Depot in Cebu City. The company is also behind the successful launch of Handy U-Style Complete Home Finishing Center located on Chino Roces Avenue in Makati.

Impressive record

West Point Industrial Sales Co. Inc. has a 15-year impressive record in import and wholesale of industrial and construction materials with corporate, high-profile customers.

Adjacent to the Ortigas Home Depot which is under the final stages of construction is the soon to open Ortigas Mini Depot, a "garage/home mart" supermarket, warehouse of hard, semi-retail grocery and a gold dining terrace.

A spacious parking area for over 800 automotive vehicles is also available to clients.

The Ortigas Home Depot is open daily 8 AM 10 PM inclusive.

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Dumol

Leak in Japan nuke plant kills at least 5

TOKYO—A severe leak at a Japanese nuclear power plant killed five workers on Monday, police said, but officials said no radiation had escaped in the accident, the worst ever in terms of deaths at a Japanese nuclear facility.

Several others were injured, some seriously, officials said.

The incident, which took place on the anniversary of the 1945 atomic bombing of the city of Nagasaki, is certain to increase distrust of the nuclear industry among ordinary people in Japan, which depends on nuclear power for a third of its energy needs.

Steel-reactive materials weren't contained in the steam that leaked out... We've received a report that there is no impact from radiation on the surrounding environment," an official for the Tourism and Industrial Safety Agency told a news conference.

The accident occurred in a building housing turbines for the Number 3 reactor at the Mihama Aioihasi plant in Fukui prefecture, 320 km west of Tokyo.

Kansai Electric Power Co. Inc., which runs the plant, said it had shut the 826,000-kilowatt nuclear power generation unit at the facility after the accident.

The company said it was unsure when it would restart.

"We are now investigating the cause," a Kansai Electric official told a news conference.

The accident occurred at around 3:20 p.m. just after water turbines had started the facility to raise temperatures, national broadcaster NHK reported.

The temperature of the steam that filled the room was probably about 200 degrees Celsius (298 Fahrenheit), media reports said.

The Fukui prefectural government said the cause of the accident was under investigation, but a trade ministry spokesperson, briefing reporters said there was no technical problem with the core nuclear reactor at the plant.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said he had not heard the particulars of the accident. "But I think we must do our best to investigate the cause, to prevent a repeat, and to complement safety measures," he told reporters.

Japan's most previous accident at a nuclear facility took place at a uranium processing plant in Tokaimura, a town north of Tokyo, on Sept. 30, 1999, when an uncontrolled nuclear chain reaction began triggered after three poorly trained workers were using buckets to mix nuclear fuel in vats.

The resulting release of radiation killed two workers and forced the evacuation of hundreds of nearby residents.

In a separate incident involving a nuclear facility, Tokyo Electric Power Co., Japan's biggest power producer, said on Monday that it had shut a nuclear power generation unit at its Fukushima-Daini plant due to a water leak. Reuters

THRONGS of supporters of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez rally in downtown Caracas Aug. 8 to express their favor for Chavez a week before the recall referendum on Aug. 15.

HULA GIRLS

Kelly Lifkfree, hula dancers of Halau Hula 'O Hokulani of Waipahu, Hawaii, perform during the 44th Annual Ho'ike Festival at the Kapiolani Park across from Waikiki Beach in Honolulu, Hawaii, Aug. 8. AFP/File

Ex-US darling Chalabi charged with murder

LONDON—The head of the tribunal trying Saddam Hussein said Monday his life would be in danger if he was executed in Iraq on murder charges.

Salem Chalabi denied having anything to do with the June murder of Ghaleb Hattab, director general of the Baath ministry, and said Iraq's interim prime minister and president aren't working to resolve the issue.

"I was planning on returning to Baghdad but was threatened by being one in jailed immediately would come to me. But I would be killed there because of the fact that Iraq's judiciary fall of Saddam, and so I am trying to resolve this before returning," Chalabi, who is currently in London, told British broadcasting Corp. radio.

Chalabi was asked if that meant he would not return to Iraq until he was confident he would not face arrest.

"I have not made my mind up. I plan on returning. I just want to get assurances that I will not get killed in a jail or something," he responded.

Britain's Foreign Office said Chalabi would not be extradited to Iraq.

"We don't have an extradition treaty with Iraq and we are not in a position to offer any help or matters like this," said a spokesperson, speaking on condition of anonymity. "There has also not been a request for our help from the Iraqi authorities."

Iraq issued arrest warrants on Saturday against Chalabi, who is at the helm of the war crimes tribunal for Saddam, and his uncle Ahmad Chalabi, who is accused of economic crimes and fraud charges.

Both Chalabis denied the charges as part of a politically conspiracy against them and their family.

Chalabi said he was in the "middle of negotiations to try to avoid this case" and said Iraq's prime minister and president were "directly involved."

"They have both given assurances that this is something they want to work on to resolve it quickly," he added.

"The charge supposedly is that I made a threat to this ministry of finance official who was investigating properties belonging to me," Chalabi said. "Nothing could be further from the truth. I have no recollection of ever meeting this person. I definitely have not raised him, as the allegation was, in his office."

Iraq's chief investigating judge Raheet al-Hilfi on Monday denied the charges were politically motivated. AP

Thousands march for Chavez

CARACAS—President Hugo Chavez on Sunday urged tens of thousands of supporters massing in the Venezuelan capital to prepare for a "final attack" against a crucial recall referendum vowing up to a week to ensure him from office.

Chavez supporters gathered on Bolivar Avenue in downtown Caracas, where the leftist president rallied on supporters to stay alert ahead of the Aug. 15 vote.

"We don't under the final attack, a popular offensive from all directions, with much intelligence and without being cocky," Chavez told a throng of cheering fans.

"We will win, but we have not won yet," said Chavez, who was wearing a shirt in his trademark red color. "Careful with triumphalism. There are many days left. We cannot commit any mistakes in the seven days we have left."

The mass of supporters were the government's red color, blow whistles and waved Venezuelan flags amid a festive atmosphere.

Freddy Bernal, the pro-Chavez mayor of Caracas' Libertador neighborhood, said 900,000 people took part in what was dubbed the "March for Victory."

Red Tire Chief Rodolfo Sfeir, who works under Jesse Chacon Caracas Mayor Alfredo Peña, said: "Without a doubt, they are more than 100,000 and they arrived at 1,000 buses provided by the government."

The opposition held a rock and rules concert Sunday at a similar protest, with television stars who hosted the show urging people to vote "yes" and shouting "Chavez go away!"

The demonstration came as both Chavez and his opponents mounted massive door-to-door campaigns to try to win voters before the Aug. 15 referendum. Both camps expressed confidence Sunday they would win the recall vote.

Enrique Mendoza, a leader in the opposition's Democratic Coordinator (CD) coalition, predicted that Chavez will be recalled by "an ample majority."

The spokesperson for Chavez's campaign, Jamael Mustafa, said the president was an "absolute victory over the opposition... and to win in such overwhelming fashion that there would be no more doubts for the opposition, the international community and in particular for the government of Mr. George W. Bush."

Chavez has accused the United States of funding the campaign to unseat him.

The recall will ask Venezuelans whether Chavez should step down now, two years before his six-year term ends. Opinion polls suggest the race will be close and that many of the 14 million registered voters have yet to decide whether to vote "yes" or "no."

The latest surveys generally give an edge to Chavez, but some analysts have questioned the reliability of opinion polls in a country that has been rocked by sporadic political violence in recent years.

The opposition, a diverse group united mainly by their hatred of Chavez—has deployed 420,000 volunteers to fan out door-to-door, spokesperson Jesus Torrealba said.

Chavez foes have closed ranks in recent months. The CD coalition comprises an eclectic mix of political, business, labor, social and military groups with often divergent views.

Chavez, a former paratrooper who spent two years in prison for leading a failed military coup in 1992, has portrayed the leftist campaign to defeat the referendum. AFP

2 blasts in Pakistan school leave 8 dead

KARACHI—Two bombs exploded within minutes of each other in a western neighborhood of Karachi on Sunday killing at least eight people and wounding more than 50, police and witnesses said.

The bombs were smashed to two motorcycles parked outside a madrasa (religious school) located near to it, police said.

A police station is also located nearby, they said.

A fourth-disposed signal debased a third bomb was seen to be, but it was to explode, Karachi Police Chief Tariq Jameel said.

"First there was a small explosion, which was followed by a bigger blast," he said.

Doctors and police said eight people were killed and more than 50 injured were taken to at least three state-run hospitals.

Pappu Leghari, a deputy inspector general of police, called the bombing "an act of terrorism."

"The target was the general public and students. The area is to create chaos," he said.

Parts of human flesh, shreds of glass, smashed furniture and twisted pieces of motorcycle were also seen scattered at the blood splattered site, witnesses said.

An official of the fourth-floors of signal said all the three bombs were locally made weighing around one to 1.5 kg. Reuters

Nagasaki to US: Drop dependence on nuke arms

TOKYO—The mayor of Nagasaki urged the United States on Monday to help end the world of nuclear weapons, 59 years to the day after a US plane dropped an atomic bomb over the Japanese city of Nagasaki, during World War II.

The atomic bomb fully poor city on Hiroshima joined in southwest Japan killed 74,000 people and some just three days after the United States unleashed the world's first atomic bomb mission were on the city of Hiroshima.

The intense heat, shock waves and ensuing fires completely depressed all structures for four kilometers along the city's heavily built-up Urakami Valley.

By the end of 1945, the number of dead from the initial blast plus those who succumbed to burns and radiation sickness was 74,000, or one third of the city's population, with another 75,000 injured.

The atomic ceremony of commemoration began with a minute of silent prayer at 11:02 a.m., the exact time that the plutonium bomb was dropped above the city Aug. 9, 1945.

"So long as the world's leading superpower fails to change its posture of dependence on nuclear weapons, it is clear that the role of nuclear proliferation cannot be restrained," Itoshi Itoi said in his annual peace declaration to more than 5,000 people at the city's peace park.

"People of America. The path leading to the eventual survival of the human race unequivocally requires the elimination of nuclear arms. The time has come to join hands and unite to save this earth," he said, speaking near the epicenter of the blast.

Standing at the foot of the Peace Statue—a bronze figure of a man pointing to the parcel of sky from which the atomic bomb fell —his criticized Washington for continuing to possess 10,000 nuclear weapons.

He also criticized the United States for conducting subcritical nuclear tests, which contain the ingredients of a nuclear warhead but have no detonation blast and relies on computer simulation instead.

"In addition, the so-called missile defense systems are also a part of new development efforts considered to deliver truly horrible levels of force," he noted, saying the radioactivity they would release would be no different to that from the bombs dropped on Nagasaki.

"The city's increasingly elderly atomic bomb survivors continue to suffer from the after-effects of the bombing as well as from health problems induced by the stress of their experiences," he said.

He said Japan—the citizens of the former's cities to look separately at the reality of the Gospel—that have exhibited in the wake of the atomic bombings of 60 years ago.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi attended the ceremony and pledged to "make utmost efforts towards the abolition of nuclear weapons."

Masatoshi Tomiyasu, who was 16 when the bomb was dropped, recalled the horror immediately after the blast.

"People with burns too bad this to look at and people in agony from severe injuries were deeper underwalking for help, he said.

On the anniversary of the bombing on Friday city mayor Iccharo Shiba lashed out at the United States and accused it of having an "operation world error." AFP

DOVES fly over the Peace Statue during a memorial service for the 59th anniversary of the US atomic bombing in Nagasaki as the peace park in Nagasaki, Aug. 9.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2004
ENTERTAINMENT

'Direk' Joey: Film fest committee should've included Peque, Mel, Jeffrey

By Marinel R. Cruz

"I'm glad my movie was included in the film festival," said director Joey Javier Reyes. "I just wish that the films of Peque, Jeffrey and Mel got in, too.

"I can hope," Reyes added, "that independent producers and filmmakers would not get disappointed and discouraged."

In a phone interview last Sunday, the award-winning filmmaker and scriptwriter was expressing to Inquirer Entertainment his disappointment over the selection of the eight final entries in the Metro Manila Film Festival this December.

Also on Sunday, MMFF Films producer Joseli Isberto Alonzo, whose entry was rejected, called on the executive committee to allow public access to all of the 27 screenplays submitted to the festival.

While Reyes' "Bahay" made it to the final eight, Peque Gallaga's "Star Walker" from Doug Pinderwicks, Mel Chionglo's "Gumiseke Bisco" from "Adek Baro, and Jeffrey Jeturian's "Mano Po" from Kirk Haro were shut out.

"Bahay," stars Shigeking Dantes, Marvin Agustin, Rico Blanco, Alessandra de Rossi, Paulo Contis and Ana Capri.

Reyes said it is important for this year's December film festival to succeed. "Its failure could mean the death of the local film industry," he warned.

REYES, "Bahay," on

GALLAGA, "Star Walker," on

CHIONGLO, "Gumiba de Bisco," on

JETURIAN, "Mano Po," on

What's out

Of the eight final movies, three listed Joel Lamangan as their director: MMG Films' "Mano Po 3," Regal Entertainment and Cinema "Jacklyn Josme, 1941," starring Raymart Santiago, Judy Ann Santos and Dennis Trillo, and Regal/Viva's drama comedy "Quo Vadis Baby," which stars Eric Quizon, Eva Aquino, Mark Herras and Ramon Conillo.

All three, plus Mrg/Mentro' "Tagani" directed by Joel Lamangan, are said to be from Regal matriarch Lily Monteverde, which triggered complaints from other producers and directors who also submitted entries to the festival executive committee.

"It was not Joel Lamangan's fault that his three movies are part of the film festival," said Reyes. "But I personally think that it would be better if the films from one producer or director also decided to throw out the works of those three directors," he added, referring to Gallaga, Chionglo and Jeturian.

"I'm not in a position to criticize the executive committee," Reyes said. "I don't exactly know how it chose the eight entries. What I feel sad about is that it's as if the film fest is moving away from its goal of saving the dying local movie industry."

The festival executive committee is headed by Alberto Muzila, Development Authority of the Philippines; with Wilson Tieng, Dominic Ong, Rogelio de la Cruz and Tony Gonzales as members.

"All I'm saying is that, I think it would have been interesting to see Peque, who hasn't done a movie in a long while, to finally come up with one of his films," Reyes stressed. "Jeffrey is now considered a major director and as everyone would want to know what he would do this time after the success of 'Bridal Shower.'"

In last year's festival, Jeturian's "Bridal Shower," about three women in search of love and relationships, was a big favorite at the box office and among critics, with its award-winning performances by Glaiza De Castro, Iza Calzado and Angel Aquino.

"Mel has been wanting to do Gumiba' when Lito Brocka was still alive," Reyes said. "But it has always got a 'Gumiseke Honor' in and it's been been scripted by the late great Brocka.

Something wrong

Among those who complained about Mendoza's being connected to four of the eight films that movies was MMF Films producer Isberto Alonzo, the producer of Jeturian's "Mano Po."

Alonzo filed a complaint with the festival executive committee last Thursday, saying certain film fest rules and regulations were "selectively enforced" by producers.

"You only want to point out the conclusion is not right in the system," Alonzo had said.

On Sunday, Alonzo called on the executive committee to give the public access to all 27 screenplays submitted to the festival.

"I have confirmed information that there were some rules, instead of submitting a script, merely handed a sequence treatment," Alonzo said. "This is highly irregular.

Contradicting themselves

"I'm not going into movie production for the money," Reyes claimed. "If I want it to make a good film is my personal contribution to the industry, at the risk of losing my investments. When I decided to do reality-based movie themes, in the context we are under for personal interests."

Alonzo said, "In the afternoon of August 5, when the executive committee met and had the chance to pass upon the issues, I had stated, they defended the deadline issue, saying there wouldn't be a film fest each only three entries. Only number of scripts submitted on the first deadline, July 15.

"They lose sight of the fact that by July 15 (the second deadline), they already had 10 entries. Isn't the number more than enough?

"They're only contradicting themselves. What was so special about the entries which were submitted between July 16 and July 15. (The third and final deadline)? Why couldn't they extend the deadline until the end of July to make a full month from July 15? That would have been more logical."

Undeterred, she added, executive committee chair Fernando was not present at the Aug. 5 meeting.

Alonzo called on the committee to give the public access to all 27 screenplays

Surprise hit inspires more recordings from SMC Orchestra

By Leah C. Salterio
Contributor

FOUR years ago, Maestro Ryan Cayabyab sat down to an exploratory meeting with Jun Miguel Gorp, UMG chair fellow, the "founding" Lopezgorp. As The business tycoon wanted to put up a professional orchestra so that the food conglomerate could give back something to the people, especially those who have been lucky at its SMC products. He felt that public-owned art orchestra that would make them proud to be Filipinos.

In 2002, the award-winning composer became the executive and artistic director of the Jun Miguel Foundation for the Performing Arts.

The foundation would be a staunch advocate of the preservation, performance and development of Filipino music, with a commitment to reach the highest standards of excellence for the people. This is the guiding force in the foundation's mission, vision and philosophy. It is also its focus and direction.

Cayabyab put together the 62-member Jun Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra (JMPO) and the 40-member Jun Miguel Master Chorale (JMMC).

"We want to play a leading role in the Philippine performing arts and become a major force in creating Philippine music," says Cayabyab. "We want to set a new tradition of excellence in orchestral and choral arts. We want to bring pride and honor to the Philippines by becoming the best all-Filipino professional orchestra and chorale in the country, in Asia and one of the best in the world."

He continues the JMPO break away from the traditional view of the orchestra, which is often associated with classical music. "All over the world, orchestras are saying to themselves," he points out, "I decided to pursue a more aggressive role in performing Filipino music. We can even play pedestrian tunes like Geha-Ocha."

He feels the JMPO has an edge over other orchestras in the country. It enjoys the support of a major corporation.

Surprise hit

"Most orchestras in the world are semi-funded, because an orchestra is a showcase for a country or a city and mirrors the quality of art in that place," says Cayabyab. "The Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra should be enjoying the funding it deserves. Frustratingly enough, the PPO has no big funding. It has not expanded and developed its audience the way Singapore has done with its philharmonic orchestra."

The JMPO's repertoire ranges from Mozart, Dvorak and Rachmaninoff to Lloyd Webber and Hammerstein to Jim Paredes and, of course, Cayabyab.

In its three-year existence, the JMPO has presented numerous concerts and performed with top artists as part of its audience-developmental programs. This year, it has brought out two recordings, Believe Holy Week, it released its maiden album, "The Sacred Works of Ryan Cayabyab," a double disc which also features the MMC.

"We recorded 'Sacred Works' two years ago, but we did not release it publicly," Cayabyab shares. "It was meant only for the foundation. He decided it could be distributed commercially only after we did 'Great Filipino Love Songs.' The successor of BMG Records Inc. (now Sony BMG) called and convinced us to release it, too. I've developed a very close working relationship with BMG Records. It will be difficult for me to think of other recording companies."

"Great Filipino Love Songs" has turned out to be a surprise hit. The CD album debuted at number two upon its release, overtaking pop or foreign mainstream hotshots such as Usher, Josh Groban, Maroon Five, Beyonce and Evanescence.

HAUNTED C. Running the orchestra means a lifestyle change for Ryan Cayabyab.

More recordings

On its second week, "Great Filipino Love Songs" shot up to the top of the charts of Tower Records and Music One stores, where it has remained for nearly four months now.

"Though we are very proud of our work, we never expected people to embrace it as they did," Cayabyab says of the CD. "This proves that the appeal of great OPM songs is timeless."

"Great Filipino Love Songs" features OPM classics performed by a full orchestra, a first in local recording history. The JMPO was conducted by Israel Kibzabo. The album includes "Maalaala Mo Kaya," "Until in "It," "Sana Ko Muli Ikaw," "Sakit," "I Still Love Makiraw" and "Gaano Ka Ka Katagal."

In October, the world of the 50-year-old Cayabyab will be showcased in a concert tribute at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, featuring the JMPO and the JMMC.

"I did not plan to do this job, like I didn't plan to be a TV host when I did 'Penti, Ryan Muzika-han' on ABS-CBN more than 10 years ago," says the artist who was called "Pangeet" by the late Ramon Tuvera Jr. when they performed at Carmen's Palace in Las Vegas in the '80s, with Aiza's Queen of Songs, Pilita Corrales.

Fulfilling the vision of the orchestra will take a long while, but Cayabyab is willing to stay the course.

"It will take years for us to be the best," he says. "We are not even in line as the best. The New York Symphony Orchestra took a century to get to the top. But we're still on track.

"We are trying to be a different orchestra," Cayabyab adds. Things don't happen as fast as you want them to happen. Time is an important element. Sometimes, even the best plans don't work, so you have to go back to the drawing board and start all over again."

Brazilian music, food at Merk's for 1 night only

MERK'S has been voted for the 6th year in Trademark Concepts Inc. and Trek Music Inc., in cooperation with the Embassy of the Federative Republic of Brazil and Travel & Leisure Card, presents "My Brazilian Passion with Brazilia."

The one-night-only event features Tori Painters on keyboard, Jes Baron on percussion, Michael Alba on drums and Boc Miss on bass, singers Rowena Michaels and Chat Alegarbes and Leonard Malabet on guitar.

Groove to the beat of Brazilian music and enjoy Brazilian cuisine and cocktails on Monday, Aug. 23, 8 p.m. Dress code: All white encouraged.

The show is for the benefit of the Hope for the World Foundation Philippines. For reservations, call 757-4730, visit www.merks-bar.bistro.com or e-mail mail@merksbar.bistro.com.

Now showing on Nickelodeon

THE FOX reels all videos "Kiz That" spoof's America's top idol search, and then was Amadeus shows up on "The Amanda Show."

In "Cable Breaks the Soldier Hit-[ional]," Eddie finds a stash of money and quickly buries it. But a mysterious man comes looking for the loot.

"BrainChild" features teens using bits from your favorite stars, plus an article-of-the-week segment, and more.

In the one-hour special, "The Adventures of Jimmy Neutron, Boy Genius: Jet Fusion," Jimmy Neutron goes outland on a quest for the big Yes to science experiment, gets a chance to win a game bag of Nick stuff, make sure you make a date with your TV on Aug. 20 at 8 p.m.

SHOW TIME

Catch your favorite Nickstars in movie action, Aug. 11 to 15. Join the Rugrats, Arnold, Wild Thornberrys and the gang from Rocket Power in exciting

Nicmix from a life of "crime" and decipher my mystery.

For younger viewers, Nick Jr. on Nickelodeon has the "Blue's Clues" gang cooking up a surprise party to celebrate good ol' Jon's birthday. Help Blue figure out what else is needed to get ready before Joe finds out.

Next, to Nickelodeon or log on to www.nickelodeon.com for exciting games, program highlights, events, surprises, lots of cool prizes and more.

'Crazy' over Javier

JAVIER live at Ayala mall.

CLOSING and unique host describes the new R&B singer/songwriter Javier and his self-titled album.

With "Javier," the 25-year-old prodigy not only displays his natural entertainment talents but also proves he's not beholden to pop trends and ridiculousness.

His single "Crazy" was on the Top Five of several radio charts. His second single "If I Never Go to Heaven," is currently being played on radio.

"Javier" simmers with mystical twists, with stirring R & B ballads and mid-tempo funk as well as classic jazz and Latin grooves—hey, even rock. With influences like Dennis Hathaway, Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye and Anita Baker, Javier—both the singer and the album—has something for every musical taste and mood.

Experience Javier's many layers of sounds live in Manila as the Ayala mall present the rising R&B sensation. Javier will be performing on Aug. 20 at the Greenbelt 3 Park and on Aug. 21 at the Robinsons Town Center. Come in his

Palmas, Both shows will start at 7 p.m. See for yourself why Javier is the new buzzword in R&B/Hip-Hop.

"Javier" is now out on CDs and cassette from EMI Philippines.

FESTIVE. director Dessange (standing, second from left) with other organizers in Subic

Donald Trump, TV star

VIEWFINDER
Nestor U. Torre

THEY call Donald Trump "The Donald" because, in the eyes of the denizens of the society-matron world, he's not generic, one of a kind, in a class all his own. Not because he's the richest entrepreneur around, but because he's been able to combine business savvy with celebrity-tool.

Thanks to Trump, the real Manhattan's mighty spouses, "The Donald" and his capitols have long been the stuff of which lurid tabloid exposés are made.

Some years ago, his business empire was threatened by major financial setbacks. Though he lost a preponderance of his image, he has been able to recover lost ground.

Looking a bit older and host of a golden boy many Trump has added TV stardom to his long list of accomplishments. He hosts the new reality-game series, "The Apprentice," which is telecast every Monday at 9 p.m. on ABC-5.

We viewed the show recently, and once its format was unfolded to Trump's reputation for being a tough boss and ruthless negotiator. The competitive elements involved teams of young male and female hotshots fighting for the profitable plum of becoming the favored underdog in running his vast business empires.

The contestants were appropriately bright and tough, and did everything they could to meet the performance and "maintain" capers Trump expected.

One dazzling task was for the two teams to purchase a wide range of products that were difficult to secure from specialty shops scattered all over New York City.

Thus, the members of each team had to work closely together to perform the task assigned to it within the prescribed time limit.

The final deciding factor would be the earnings that each team was able to make, by creatively climbing of ways to win. Once this point is reached, the product is delivered.

As it turned out, the women's team beat the pants off the guys, after wasted a lot of time playing macho games of one-upmanship instead of forming their energies on the task at hand.

The women's team also screamed the rules at other tasks, prompting Trump to complain that the male appendages were giving all men in the business world a bad rep!

Predictably enough, the apprentice failed out at the end of that particular telecast was a member of the male team. Oh, how the women reveled in their personal pain for the week, a sumptuous dinner at Trump's favorite fine-dining restaurant—and at the table reserved exclusively for Trump, to boot.

Aside from its newsworthy and occasional emotional outbursts, what makes "The Apprentice" a riveting treat is the informal but comprehensive practicum it provides for making it big in the business world.

The fact that it's The Donald who's handling the tutorial only makes the learning all the more rewarding.

Feedback

FROM JOSE Mari Mayuzumyan of Binangonan, Rizal: "Here are my choices of commendable TV shows and personalities: Rhian—"Bantulaboy-ed," "Bigkid (G Challenge)," Jessica Soho Reports," "Inkanto, Dok," "Bing Alamin," "Bingsapop Ito," in "Star Inventor," "Ari Angel," "Magandang Gabi, Bayan."

"TV personalities—Cesa Bribon in "Pipol," Dong Puno in "Dong Puno Live," Mel Tiangco in "24 Oras," Dyan Castillejo and Marc Nelson in "Sports Unlimited," Gerry Geronimo in "Bing Alamin," Bing Abarado in "Kapinoy," Luis Alfaro in "Lovely Day," Kris Aquino in "Kris Aquino Inc.," Kris' and Wanda Wanted and Oscar Orbes in "Debate."

'Bureaucrat ni Magno Rubio'

DON'T miss Tanghalang Pilipino's staging of Dennis Castro's "ang Bureaucrat ni Magno Rubio" translated by Jun Rayrayed at the CCP's Tanghalang Nicanor Tiongson starting on Aug. 13. Lay dreams directs. Call 832-1125 or 832-1661.

North

THE MBC Australian boy band, North, has released its self-titled debut album. The carrier song, "Story of Love," is enjoying good airplay on local Pilipinas stations.

Cuts include "The Boy Before," "It's Monday Again," "Better Off Without You," "I Won't Hold Back," "Again," "Life is Star" and "Am I your Only Man?"

Tin-tin writes, Julius illustrates kiddie books

BLOOMING mother-to-be Tin-tin Bautista-Adduru is enjoying her pregnancy to the max.

Tin-tin cares for singing sensation Sharon Cuneta's daughter Kakie and Aunt Ju's baby girl. The ideal couple hasn't decided on the second name but they want their coming baby to have one.

They are so into the parenting mode that the lady exec are handholding a series of children's books for Goodwill Bookstore Production. The series tells the stories and bares inside the experiences for the books. Launching is on Aug. 13, 4 p.m., at the Mind Trade Center on Roxas Boulevard. The tin-tin will read her stories to the kids and, of course, she will also sign the books.

There should definitely be more fun parenting in their hosting chores on TV. The nice thing about this couple is that they didn't let marriage get in the way of their friendship. They continue to enjoy doing things together. Most couples in marriages are confined to just doing things for each other and limit their loving out of need. But with Tin-tin and Julius, it's definitely working each other out of love.

Guess list

GUESS who that young actress is who says being in with a PBA super for many years and with the Last Cataped Interviews she met and her basketball play-

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

er, Sir Jed Lopez Sr., already had wedding plans. Everything was set until she suddenly vanished. To think she was the one pestering the player to marry her. It would be interesting to watch the love cupid's cohort on the hardcourt. Possibly, basketball players are the ones who dribble hearts, but this poor cupid was the one who got dumped like a ball being dunked.

* * *

Guess who this TV personality is who snatched away the married heart-throb of her colleague. The TV exec is such a maternal girl to whom she can ask the pretty boys, exquisite jewelry and Bimby can find the lyrics she's looking for. My lucky guess is her colleague, the married heartthrob and media heart-throb. My hero goes out to her colleague because she's now pregnant with the heart-throb's baby. She's now in the US to avoid the media circus that might ensue. The funny thing is, both women are in the news and caucus affairs. Ha ha! when the sweet sheet flesh love triangle comes out in the open, they will both be the stars in the headlines.

BEST FRIENDS. Husband-and-wife pulsa and Tin-tin

'Cadenzales'

"CADENZALES" is the first sequential choreodrama of Michel Herbert since he decided a few years ago to express accumulated feelings and dreams in cinema. Gerbe is French for beans, and tells various stories, or Cadenzales, through 8 one- and 2 cameo ballets in an exuberant cavalcade of colors and sensations.

Herbert is constantly producing new art pieces, calming various media. Aside, she's wondering rounds for orchestral suites or concerto cadenzalings.

Opening night is Aug. 13 at Alliance Francaise de Manille, Total Gallery, Bel Air 2, Paseo St. Cadenzale at 6:30 p.m. Exhibit runs till Sept 3.

For more information, please call 8957581 or 8957441.

Personal

AMBASSY to A. R. for reminding me how to smile. I almost thought I had forgotten how.

Be feedback, e-mail friends.ejcarvajal@yahoo.com or dollyann@yahoo.com

MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

QUEZON CITY

MOVIE MALL - MOVIE WORLD CINEMA

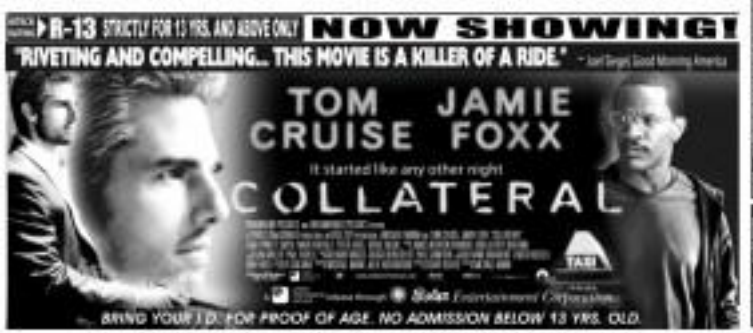
MANDALUYONG CITY

GREENHILLS

MAKATI

ROBINSONS - GALLERIA

SM MEGAMALL - COASTAL MALL



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OPINION

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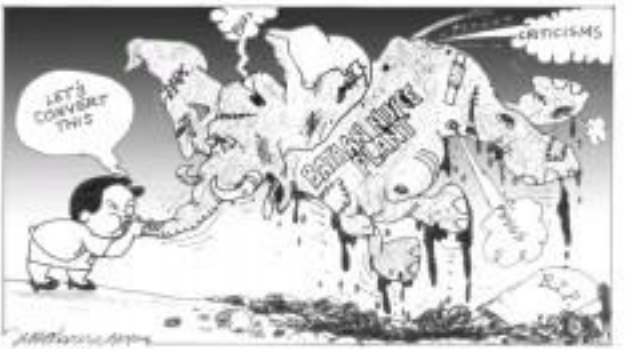


Attack on democracy

FIFTY-FOUR and counting. Fifty-four journalists have been killed in the Philippines since the restoration of press freedom in 1986. Most of the slayings are suspected to have been triggered by exposés made by the victims.

(Another list shows that a total of 77 journalists have been killed over the same period, but it does not say if all slayings were work-related.)

EDITORIAL The killing of seventeen year after year has made the Philippines the most dangerous place for journalists in Asia, and the second most dangerous in the world, after Colombia. This year, five journalists have been killed—over a period of seven months. Last year, seven newsmen were slain, for the biggest yearly total since 1986.

Most of the journalists killed had been reporting on corruption before they were assassinated. Russell Embreid, a reporter of radio station dxRC in Legaspi City, was shot dead on Feb. 13 by two gunmen outside his home. Embreid was known for his exposés on corruption and criminal gangs.

Isabelo Magbuyo, a radio announcer of radio station dxJD, was killed by an unidentified assassin on Feb. 23 as he was about to leave his house in Pagadian City in Zamboanga del Sur.

Elmer "By" Bayoya, a commentator for Radyo Natin, was killed by unidentified gunmen on June 17 outside the port city of General Santos in Cotabato. Local journalists said the murder possibly was tied to Bayoya's radio commentaries.

Roger Mariano, a reporter for dxJC Radyo Abante in Lanang City in Davao Norte, was shot several times in the back and head by unidentified gunmen on July 2 as he headed home after leaving the station. Mariano's program, "Roger Mariano in Action," was known for its reports on corruption and jueteng operations and various criminal activities.

Arnel Manalo, a correspondent of the tabloid Bulgar and radio station dzBB, was shot in the face and neck by two unidentified men in Butuan, Batangas Aug. 5. His colleagues described him as a "straight" journalist who did not have to resort to any hanky-panky because he had a garment business and was financially stable.

The killings have been condemned by international and national organizations of journalists, among them the International Press Institute, Reporters without Borders, the Committee to Protect Journalists, the Philippine Press Institute and the Freedom Fund for Filipino Journalists.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has offered a reward of P1 million for information leading to the arrest of suspected killers of journalists, but so far no mastermind has been arrested.

A campaign launched by the Freedom Fund for Filipino Journalists last May 7, involving media organizations, has so far produced no results. The principal target of the campaign was the killer of Marlboro journalist Edgar Damalerio who had escaped from police custody. Up to now the killer has not been re-arrested and Damalerio's case remains unsolved.

Director General Hermogenes Ebdane has suggested arming journalists who are facing threats to their lives. Nonoy Pacheco, who has been advocating a "gunless society" for the past 15 years, asked, "Why should we encourage people to meet gun violence with gun violence?" At any rate, unless journalists are skilled in handling guns, they may only harm themselves or other people. Many, many years ago, a journalist fired his gun in the National Press Club and succeeded only in hitting a wall and a window pane.

It might be better to provide police security to newsmen whose lives are threatened, but that would tie up a considerable number of law enforcers who should be engaged in the overall effort to curb criminality. Besides, where would the low-salaried journalists get the money to pay for the meals and other expenses of their security escorts?

The best way to stop the killing of journalists is to put an end to the climate of impunity that has encouraged attacks against newsmen. The police, the judiciary, journalists' organizations and the public in general have to work hand in hand to have the masterminds and the triggermen in the killings of journalists arrested, brought to trial and convicted as swiftly as possible.

The people may not realize it, but an attack on the press is ultimately an attack on society in general. The use of the gun to silence the press is an attack on democracy that flourishes best in a climate where there is freedom of speech and freedom of the press. Press freedom cannot thrive in a climate of fear, intimidation and constant threat of physical danger or even death.

Fellow travelers to the grave

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"YOUR friend died Sunday night," the beggar called out to the lady as we walked by.

"Friend" was a pauper, with whom the "friend" shared some rice, dandruff, bits of food, spare thirteen cent, now and then, a few pesos. Now, she was gone. "We didn't even get her name," she regretted.

Like laborite in the rich man's gate, the woman blended into the roundabouts hugged, ill-clothed, ragged, and not-home from squatting. In the rain, with paths transformed to mud.

"We do not see the poor," the Socialist's Conrado de Quiros wrote. In slum, no-insurance poverty aggregates: politicians, wives, businessmen, landlords and rebels, cannot hobble.

No, we lump: into our garages & malls all over. They gather at jeepney stops, markets and shantytowns—whatever the "hour of" hurry by.

Out of every hundred Filipinos, 46 must get by on just a fraction of P100 daily, notes the Philippine Human Development Report 2004. Nine Malaysians find themselves below poverty lines, scale 34 Thais.

Why use the statistics? Are the richer 20 percent of our people consume 13 centavos out of every peso. Our beggars still tend. But their friends do not until the riches that moment in their bodies. "It's not possible to satisfy hunger by painting two colors," the Chinese say.

Even the poorest 20 percent must make do with five centavos out of every peso—crumbs from the rich man's table. Instead that Lazarus mustard his: Time is obscene.

Imee Marcos' diamond chokers or Eap's multi-million-peso mahjong habits make desist more on. That goes for Imee'sal firestorm and Comelec digging in against reforms. All merge into one.

Studies like the annual tidbits help only seven out Monkees. "In a blind man, a pebble and a diamond are alike," a Spanish proverb says. Reality is the first step to correcting our crisis-ridden society.

ESPE reports mark the progress...or the backsliding...of countries. As innovative indicators go beyond traditional yardsticks, like GNP. Or GDP. Or Gross National Product. They assess "quality of life" in an international setting.

In human development, HDR 2004 brackets as turnover. America, a Marxist-Leninist state before Turkey, on one end, and the subsaharan blackbirds, in the bottom ten, on the other.

Of 177 countries studied, the Philippines ranked 83rd. Australians enjoy the best quality of life. The Danes were number 17.

Among Asian member-countries, Singapore ranks number 25th; HDR notes, Malaysia 59th, and Indonesia 111th. The worst ranked is Africa's Niger and Sierra Leone.

"Life is the threshold on which all other hopes begin." A life of 52 years in Tanzi-land can be brutally cut short as in fictitious. But overall, 94 nations today can hope to live to 60.8 years, almost six years with the Vietnamese. There's a decade more than the average lifespan in Swaziland.

But it's 78 for Greeks and Singaporeans...a year longer than the 77 for Americans. For Japanese, it's almost 82.

"In a prison, one of my saddest tasks is to bless the bodies of far too many babies" a friend said over coffee. Bough-home tiny coffins, shouldered by relatives on scooter's roads, are no reminder, they pass almost unnoticed, for a time.

Nevertheless, infant mortality here has dropped from 60 percent in 1970 to about 28 today. That's a true improvement. But far more are to come. Infant deaths are down to four percent in Singapore, 17 in Sri Lanka.

Till recently among Norwegians, Swedes and Danes a infant lost for every 100,000 of their populations, it is 346 for Filipinos and 179 for Thais. Undernourishment is core to Nordic anomalies. It is 22 for every 100 Filipinos and seven in Sweden.

One of the newer HDR indicators is "years unemployed" as "Probability At Birth of Surviving To Age 65." This refers to the part Millikan-Bacon "three" writing on a forest-rat's early death: "We threatened him but free to earth give heed."

Seven out of 10 Filipinos born today will probably not grow back it is for normalcy. Not in a time for "Cinderella Syndrome" and "Peter-pan" seniors, and an among Filipinos a year shorter for the men.

"Three basic durations underpin bonds' success," explains Jeffrey Sachs of Columbia University's Earth Institute. "First, is universal education, study and science. Second, is decided it would leave no contraception behind. Social insurance—pensions, health care, education—become a shared commitment. And third, is for economic openness and trade."

President Macapagal-Arroyo bullied us to dances like she and your "bridge program" to help freshers. Four years down say 200,000 of the 1.4 million graduates "know only 27 percent of what they were supposed to learn in eight years of school," the Council of Private Education Associations found.

Basic education here is 10 years. Most other countries make us 12 years. "Even Burma, Laos and Cambodia support 11 years."

In social services, what pays can be best. Above 26 gazillions of water flowing out of taps in cities is consumption.

Government red tape hobbles starting firms, causing a delay of at least 40 days, the World Bank notes. In Australia, the same process is completed in two days. Among countries studied, the Philippines ranked 46th, out of 75 countries studied by the World Economic Forum.

The poor, like our departed beggar-friend, "are not another race of creatures bound to exist at a lower level," Catholic Relief's Father Charles Dickens writes. "They are fellow travelers in the grave."

(E-mail: jlm_mercado@pacific.net.ph)

Still, families

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I REMEMBER attending an occasion last year where one very rich woman was talking fondly about someone population over a sumptuous lunch. Frankly, she said, she could not understand why people wanted to have such huge families, or indeed, why any woman would allow herself to become a children factory. Particularly the poor, she said, who obviously did not have the means to feed a couple of children, much less a dozen or so. In almost a dozen of them. It defied common sense utterly.

Frankly, too, she added, she would not mind the ones being limited only to women who could read and write and had finished at least elementary school. Though if you asked her, she said, better if the bar were raised to high school. People who acted so obviously irresponsibly—who treated the world with inherited socialist, as food and who left for the children of others' souls to scrape for themselves, in a manner of speak, it defied common sense utterly perfect—it was heinous

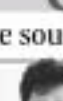
Looking for alternative sources of energy

A SEMINAR-workshop—listening to me, do tune, triggered by Sen. Joker Arroyo, on what to do with the three-dozen-old white elephant that's the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant—spiced one issue President Ferdinand Marcos' avidity, mainly, for building it in particular and nuclear plants for him, the single reason why he even bothered to commission in the BNPP after all, for most, the "Monster of Morong" is Marcos' lasting legacy to the people. Until now we are paying P18,000 a day for the fuel needed to keep it, and that we are obliged to do so to the last line point.

* * *

The world is falling deeper into a worsening vicious cycle of energy scarcity, the continuing reluctance in the Middle East that has allowed the capacity of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to increase evade production. Meaning, the three-quarters of the supply of the seven countries' increasing demand from industrializing Asian nations led by China and India and the net positions of Tokyo's oil, a giant fountain of petroleum fundamentally our energy sources. The government hopes to bring it up to 60 percent by 2010. But the problem is that we have only so much coal, and the ability of society to run our factories, ships and motor vehicles, including the nation's trucks, is still about 250,000 barrels of oil a day.

Last Sunday evening, Cecile Ahrens and I were all to our guilty pleasure former energy undersecretary Walter Berbonong, president of PNOC Exploration Corp., to talk about alternative sources of energy. Walter, who has been involved in the exploration of the Galoma oil field in the Cordillera region, is in the best position to speak about our energy alternatives. He has served five administrations, from Marcos to the present, and during the Marcos years he was personally involved in the Bataan nuclear project. He admits that the energy crunch of the '70s underscored the fact that the Philippines was 92 percent dependent on imported energy. Today, the dependence is 60 percent. Imported oil is the second largest item of goodies.



Political Tidbits

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

and energy. But unfortunately, "supreme says." That, until the political turmoil of the mid-'80s, triggered by Ninoy Aquino's assassination, that created huge oil companies to have the country.

* * *

For Romualdez, the Malampaya project—in which the government owns a 50-percent share (the other 50 percent is divided between Shell and Chevron Texaco)—is a fabulous asset because it will raise billion cubic feet of natural gas to supplement to almost 500 million barrels of oil. He said that since October 1998, Malampaya has generated 35 percent of Luzon's power needs. Still, the consortium's revenues remain small, mainly due to the failure to finish the transmission lines from Batangas to Manila, forecasting pointed out that compressed natural gas (CNG) can be used in automobiles. And for those concerned which to this country are still operated on imported fossil fuels, that CNG still has to be made commercially available here, unlike in Bangkok where CNG filling stations can already be found all over the city. Our government-owned Philippine Institute for CNG limited hence by 2007 or 2008.

* * *

As to alternative and renewable energy sources, Berbonong said the geothermal reserves in the Visayas, the development of wind power in Ilocos Norte and along the ridges of Cordillera; the hydroelectric power in the Cordillera, solar energy in rural areas and biomass energy, the biomass energy project in Bataan with the Quezon City government, which will generate energy from solid wastes, and the development of coco-diesel and ethanol for commercial purposes. Ethanol, says Berbonong, there's the challenge to find "another Malampaya"—"that's the thing says ng

Sayang Malampaya, 'pero sa'n pa?'"

* * *

Sadly the most animated colloquy at the morning-legend services for the late Vice President Doña Soledon has come from former Senate President Jovito Salonga, who, in the form of a "Re Saying" noted that recalled the glory days when giant islands "would disappear without being dis-agreeable, or differ without being difficult." The public of those two legal luminaries, Don Doña Head but a period of 14 years ago—differences had existed on ethnic since their teaching days at the Philippine Law School and the Far Eastern University Institute of Law, and subsequently in the political and legal arena. Paying tribute to Salvacion's legal prowess, for longs noted how generations of juniors, lawyers and law students "cannot pore over Salonga's and Salonga's textbook on the Civil Code without concluding that here is a civil law jurist who did not merely compile the decisions and commentaries of Spanish authorities" but who went further by explaining "the reason for the law and why jurisprudence were to come."

* * *

Salonga understandably couldn't resist adding in passing to Sotelino's being "an incurable romantic" in love with the law. Which led to a chuckle with the ladies' line together. But more gripping was the recollection of their courtroom battles and the historical events that plotted them on opposite political fences. A notable case was when Doña Soledad filed an habeas corpus petition for Liberal Party president Raul M. Gonzalez against Ruben Ancheta, whose Batasan Pambansa resolution could jail him or the Aldous Philippines 1600. The following year, Pete Villanueva (Juan Kalaw) and her friends founded the Association Pensionna Group, chaired at first by Salonga and Antonio Arnaiz (Doña Soledad's brother-in-law).

As if Sotelino or the Senate movement in the Marcos era anything in this country, then it should be "learned" for winning the right of suffrage for women, though even that right, taken for granted today, took more than three decades of struggle to win.

* * *

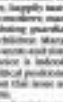
WHEN just goes to show that without women fighting for their rights (and for their) less than of the men, they would've remained in the dark ages in the world—still be relegated to second-class citizens, which they still are, by the way, in the Church.

It is inside view in discussing feminism, the Vatican has actually emphasized the accomplishments of feminism thus far, and how the feminists' quest for equality and equal rights for all has characterized the role of the pope's activities in the world. But while affirming the Vatican, might control men of all-male supremacy," notes Sotelino.

One thing I noticed after reading the document was that, while it was supposed to counter the "male chauvinism of many men and women in the Church and in the world," it said hardly anything about the role men have played in the oppression and exploitation of women. The document, for instance, is mum on the issue about many's responsibility for incest, rape or domestic violence, for instance.

The biggest irony about the "letter to Catholic Bishops," it that it was purportedly prepared to open a period of dialogue between the Church and women. But the office of its head, simplistic and paternalistic understanding of women's issues has been so simply close the door to all encounters—that is, until someone forces purposed to facetious another invitation.

Ignore it



At Large

Rina Jimenez-David

from Gov. Semilusan is still getting a load up to this very day..." writes Bulo-Bautista. "Most of the things said about feminism and feminists revolve around the basics." Feminists are feminine, pro-abortion and anti-family.

"We, many feminists are lesbians. But many lesbians are also not feminists, nor would they like to be considered feminists."

"Many feminists are homosexuals, bisexuals, lesbians, single, and yes, happily married.

"Many feminists are also modern; many are not modern but are the doting guardians of nephews, nieces, godchildren. Many feminists are fashion-conscious, while others could care less about their looks.

"Feminists are heterosexuals, bisexuals, lesbians, celibate, single, and yes, happily married.

"Many feminists are also modern; many are not modern but are the doting guardians of nephews, nieces, godchildren. Many feminists are fashion-conscious, while others could care less about their looks.

"Abortion rights and choice is indeed central to many feminists' political positions. The saying that 'every abortion is one less' is well known and often is also insulting.

"But certainly a common feminist point of view is the startling point of analysis: women's subordination and the devaluation of their persons and contributions through the centuries of women's bodies."

* * *

AND in the Philippines, we have Rina Leah Serafica, Bulo-Bautista which shows the legacy of feminism, we thousands of women in this country who had called themselves feminists since 1905."

Now, you, in fact, the country observes 100 years of feminism, a movement that began on March 10, 1905, when Pura Villanueva Kalaw, Rafaela Ileto Alunan, Librada Avelino and Liceria Soriano founded the "Asociacion Feminista Filipina." Among the founding members: Concepcion Felix, Trinidad Rizal (sister sister of the national hero), Rosario Arellano, Maria Sevilla Guazon, Maria Paterno Arnaiz, the attendee nurses and

Leiva de Silver. As an expression of their feminist beliefs, the women founded many institutions for the "first-ever non-religious, non-government social welfare institution in the country. Over the years, the institution's social work grew to include Philippine Red Cross, the Girl Scouts of the Philippines, the Girls' Athenaeum (Philippine Women's University), the Philippine Women's College of Commerce (Centro Escolar University), the Philippine Women's University,

Sacrificing the pork barrel

SEN. SERGIO OSMEÑA III has the devil's eye with his suggestion (PDI, Letters, 7/26/04) for our honorable elected officials, especially our legislators, to make the biggest sacrifice of all, by voluntarily giving up part of their pork barrels. I say to Philippine people: double or treble your mettle to challenge to all our elected officials. Do I already hear hoots of protest? I would be quite patently if many of our politicians would just shrug off this challenge with a "business as usual" attitude. The problem with our lawmakers and political leaders today is that most of them are here or exist solely themselves through the machinery of corruption in government.

Corruption is a retrogressive social virus that paralyzes development and progress. We are tied in here and I do in the world among the most corrupt countries.

As rightly observed, the pork barrel, disguised as the Countrywide Development Fund, is the politicians' favorite sodas jar, the kitty that sweeps into bunch would like to bundle-grab, munch, swallow hook, line and... they might as well devour the whole fishing boat, too. This is not, exaggeration at that, the pork barrel, as seen by many, is a reminiscent teacher and/or check payments to settle the political campaign debts of winning candidates.

In a recent report conducted by the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, most congressmen were found to have become wealthier during their incumbency. In this generally wan atmosphere of our political land Osea ena Olds of corruption really smell that unfairly bad? It is any wonder that our people have become misanthropic, disenchanted and disinterested?

Come to think of it, our ballooning budget deficits and national debts keep mounting every day by the millions, causing a long dark spell over the next generations. Unfairly, our children and grandchildren will have to carry the debts we incur. I can only imagine the outrage of the next generations once they realize that a sizable portion of the debt they have to pay accumulated because of the corruption of their elders, just probably not politicians.

Mr. President, call for a "big sacrifice" now would help "save" this "burden" to our generations will have to carry.

—JOHN CHUA
Tambobong City
wilmichua@yahoo.com

A testament to the need for change

IMELDA Marcos should be happy with "Imelda," the movie. The film focused on her extravagance and caprice. It did not touch much on the inhumanity and barbarism of the martial law regime of her husband, of which she was a beneficiary.

The Marcos martial law regime was supported by the US government. The Marcoses controlled the military, and the military controlled the whole of the country. It was this system that allowed the Marcoses to lord it over our country. It was this system that empowered Imelda to accumulate her shoes, perhaps to match her jewelry. It was this system that established crony capitalism and allowed a new breed of elite class to plunder the country's resources.

The film presented Mrs. Marcos' excess and flaunted the grandeur of her taste. Portraying her as a committed artiste, sensitive and compassionate to the plight of her people, would have been ridiculous. "Imelda" was not ushered from nothing.

It showed actual footage of interviews with Mrs. Marcos herself—enough to judge her as ruthless, if she is blind, or stupid, if she is average. This was the unremarking part.

However, the martial law regime and its key personages should not be viewed only in this light. Martial law was an era of outright dictatorship, when those who resisted were detained, tortured, killed, or simply disappeared from the face of the earth. The beneficiaries of the martial law regime left few, or remain in the comforts of power, and continue to enjoy the fruits of their plundered wealth. And the victims, the Filipino masses, still wallow in abject poverty—a testament that real changes have to call.

—RUDY L. PO
assistant general
Concerned Artists of the Philippines
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email: rdo@philonline.com

No to NBN coverage of Olympic Games

In 126 volume, 2004, 7/26/04), cover "Pete Weeks." Al Mendoza printed—and wholeheartedly endorsed—a resolution filed by Bacolod City Rep. Monico "Nicole" Puentevella urging Malacañang to support NBN, the ailing government TV station, in its bid to cover upcoming events where our athletes are competing.

On the surface, Puentevella's proposal appears to be a noble one—which, perhaps, is but an deeper scrutiny, it is not all that nice. Let me lay down the real score.

1. Giving NBN the monopoly of covering local and international sports events is a direct and unfair contradiction to the spirit of free enterprise. If it does so, the government would deprive private networks the opportunity to broadcast and profit from such events.

2. As proven by its inept handling of the 2003 Subic Olympics, the 2002 Busan Asian Games, and the 2001 Olympic Games in Cebu, NBN is hardly the model of broadcasting excellence. So why is Puentevella crusading zealously? What's the joy in watching sports on television if the coverage is lousy? Or that NBN will be compelled to seek glory when the kind of TV coverage they get is an uninspiring? Why go to town, NBN can't even produce a decent sports module in its news programs. We don't need a repeat of the Busan fiasco, do we?

3. The reason why we may not be able to watch our athletes in action in the Athens Olympics is that NBN owns the International Olympic Committee $1.2 million to expand broadcast rights fee for the 1996 Atlanta and 2000 Sydney Olympics. These expenses fees are usually recovered through commercial advertising of the telecast. But since sponsors hold the quality and, obviously there wasn't much of that in NBN's past sports misadventures. Thus, the $1.2 million is embarrassing index. If NBN is to see still the Athens Games, the chance is will see a new Olympia erected in the payment penalty even—at the expense, again, of our taxpayers.

I hope the energetic congressman has not been misled into believing that the government network holds the monopoly or chance of getting a slice of the Athens Olympics. So, I understand it, ABC 5 and Solar Sports made separate bids as early as last year but had to back out but from what I know, Solar Sports made separate bids as early as last year but had to back out but from what I know, it is because it is not financially able to cover the payment penalty even—at the expense, again, of our taxpayers.

I hope the energetic congressman has not been misled into believing that the government network holds the monopoly or chance of getting a slice of the Athens Olympics. So, I understand it, ABC 5 and Solar Sports made separate bids as early as last year but had to back out but from what I know, it is because it is not financially able to cover the payment penalty even—at the expense, again, of our taxpayers. It is now NBN is making it appear that it alone is our savior when, in truth, it is the cause of the Philippines becoming a laughing stock in the entire international Olympic community.

By all means, let's envision the rejection of our athletes whenever practicable. That's the least we can do for them. But let's not lose sight of fairness and justice to everyone when pondering the right Pyrrhonism for the job.

—CHINO CUTIERREZ
pgutierrez@hotmail.com

Tax cheats worse than murderers

BOTTING of imposing new taxes—like the 12% value-added tax—the government should stop giving tax amnesties. The tax amnesties favor the rich who, according to the Institute for Research Economics, are the biggest tax evaders.

The solution is a crime. The National Internal Revenue Code section on tax evasion is extremely worse than giving amnesty to murderers, robbers and kidnappers. If murderers and other criminals have a habituation or big punishment who deserves the government of taxes is guilty of the death of thousands of people—unlawful deaths due to poverty, poor health care, or due to road accidents because of poorly maintained roads, or during natural calamities for lack of relief funds. Tax evasion triggers shortfalls in public funds, which in turn, causes the increase in poverty and human sufferings and poverty.

If the government stops granting tax amnesty and enforces the collection of taxes in accordance with the law, the taxpayers, it would not have to impose additional tax burdens on the poor who already pay the bigger share of government revenue through indirect taxes, which sometimes more than 60% of government revenues.

The proposed tax cut was is one of those political issues that have a bigger impact on the poor than on the rich. Most low income people only receive income tax exemption because it is cheaper. The rich prefer value-added because they are more efficient, even though more expensive. Discrimination is a basic human activity that might not to be heavily taxed, especially if used for essential goods. Discrimination is a basic human activity that might not to be heavily taxed, especially if used for essential goods. It is a legitimate

Across the NATION

BALANCE PILTON

Army says Pinoy soldier died in accidental firing during war games break

3 Chinoys seized in Cavite; 1 escapes

GenSan radioman shot by boxer's bodyguard dies in hospital ICU

Whirlwinds sweep through 3 Negros areas

Mindanao farmers back NFA chief as agri head

Chained girl sues parents, brod for abuses

Cebu prelate starts campaign to block 2-child policy plan

CEBU CITY— Senators and congressmen should respect moves latter from Cebu to bishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, informing them of his strong position against the two-child policy proposal submitted to the House of Representatives.

The letter, Vidal said, would first be given to the 20 congressmen-solon-members from Islands the Catholic Church's Blessed Pedro Calungsod Pro-Vice (pro-life) Awards for their legislative work.

While the prelate would not elaborate on the content of his letter, he said he wrote it to urge the legislators to "uphold the sanctity of life and family."

"I will not make any imposition on anybody. If they are Christians, they will know how to respond," Vidal told the Inquirer on Saturday.

Vidal, who celebrated on Sunday the 9th anniversary of the Oasis of Love-Cebu chapter at the Cebu Catholic Television Network (CCTN), also reiterated his call on Catholic lay groups to oppose the new proposals on population control in Congress.

"You are now asked to take a stand. Stand up and speak out for what is right and what is true with conviction and courage. May I ask you to do more than just pray in private or on TV," Vidal said in his homily.

"We militant bishops incitement use any and/or only as much as our pulpit preaching. However, when it is no comparison in your face-to-face economic second life. I don't mislead are bad enough, which the forces of evil are trying to make worse in the name of national development and for the sake of poverty alleviation," the prelate said.

Vidal said the Catholic faithful could rise the crusade against artificial contraception by example through the practice of the natural methods of contraception, which is accepted by the Church.

He said that the recipients of the pro-life award should report a letter from him soon. Among them are Cebu City Representative Raul del Mar (north district) and Antonio Cuenco, and Cebu province Representatives Simeon Kintanar (2nd dist.) and Antonio Yapha (3rd dist.).

"Even if they will say that 'I am a member (of Congress) and not everybody'. Yes, but they should not impose on the Catholics that is unless thing," he added.

Vidal, during the interview, also described as another population control proposal the suggestion of Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. for a five-year moratorium for couples to have a child.

"What if God says 'Ops. I will also give a five-year moratorium on my blessings.' We are not going to dictate on the things that the Lord will give. It is the right of God, we cannot impose on him," he said.

"Life is a gift and gifts are not to be limited. If you limit the gifts of God we might lose all gifts," he said.

Vidal said the legislators oppose economic development with population control and that it is a misconception that should be removed.

"I will not impose anymore; they have their good sense. They are mature and responsible people," he said. Bernadette Abrea, PDI Magna Bartolo

SHINE ON. Pupils of the Perpetual Elementary School in the island Garden City of Samal participate in the city's Pangging Festival, which came at an appropriate time as the city celebrates the return of power after suffering from a prolonged outage caused by damages to a marine power cable.

Palace caught in feud over storage fees

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—While allegedly trying to intercede in an apparent feud between farmers, vegetable traders and the provincial government over fees for the use of a state-sponsored cold storage program, the governor learned.

Governor Nestor Fongwan Jr. ordered the establishment of the program, which is composed of eight trucks fitted with refrigerated vans, and a series of refrigerated warehouses that have yet to be built.

The program was meant to respond to Benguet farmers' protests that accused Mr. Arroyo's administration of allowing imported salad vegetables between 2001 and 2003.

But former Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo Jr. was surprised to find on July 25 that the cold chain's partner farmers are now finding new which group has the better right to use it.

Lorenzo visited the town to sign a memorandum of agreement with farmers that prescribed the daily fees required to maintain the cold chain.

But Benguet Board Member John Bilocheland the agreement, "on behalf of farmers who did not even know there was such a fee for shipping their goods to Manila."

Former Benguet Gov. Raul Molintas also assailed the local government for allowing side vendors to use the refrigerated trucks, which the Arroyo had rehabilitated for poor farmers.

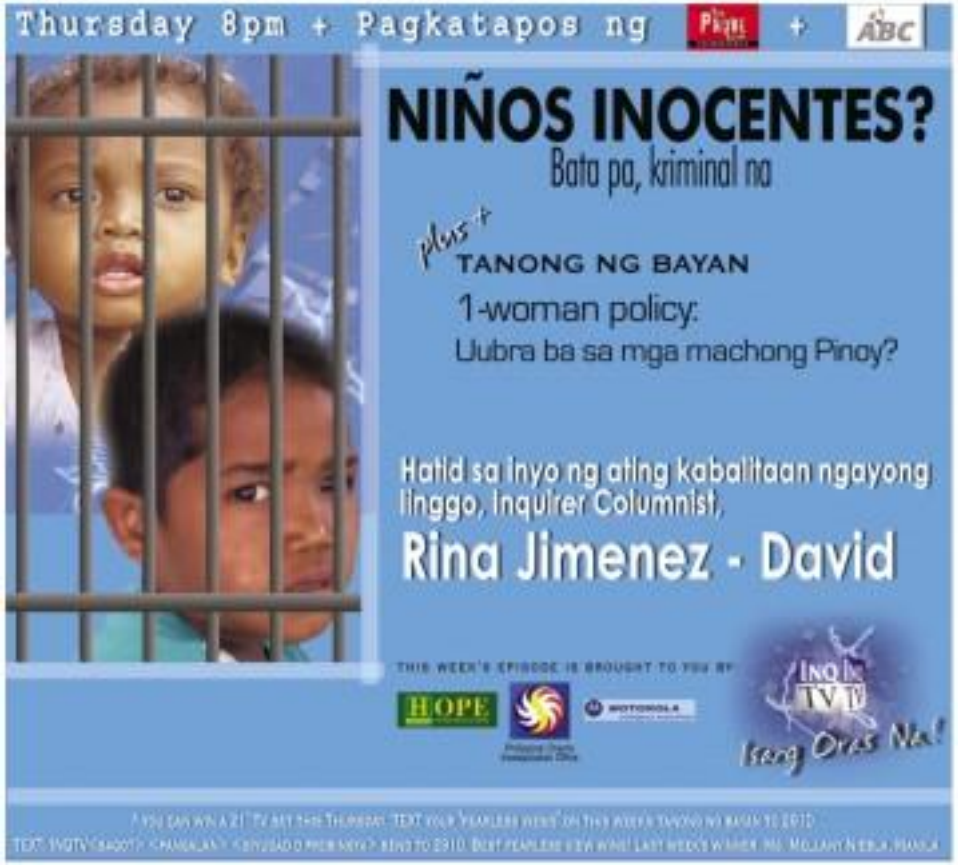
Faustino Mateo, outgoing Cordillera director of the Department of Agriculture, said the government was taken aback by reports that the cold chain program caused farmers to be jolted against vegetable traders.

He said the cold chain was established by the provincial government to raise reimbursement funds for the vehicles.

But the DA did not oppose the P1.5M a kilogram charge being imposed by the previous Benguet administration, Mateo said.

Instead, Mateo had proposed fees as low as P2 per kg to allow farmers real access to the refrigerated vehicles. He also asked the local government to open the fees to a public hearing.

"The current cold chain fees are too high and it assumes that farmers who will use it have ready markets in Metro Manila. The reality is that any arable makes have existing metals climate, not the farmers, reduce only available wholesale market is the La Trinidad vegetable trading post," Mateo said. Vitamin Gabonia, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau



METRO

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Desk Editor: Cresee B. Bilon, Rose O. Diparaqui

4 kidnap gang suspects caught

By Leila B. Salaverria

FOUR suspected members of a gang allegedly responsible for the abduction of at least three Chinese Filipinos were arrested over the weekend after National Bureau of Investigation agents foiled their attempt to rob a Quezon City motorist.

The suspects, alleged members of the Legaspi subgroup of the notorious Puerto Water gang, were nabbed in front of the Jollibee Food Corp. on Saturday after Wednesday's failed bank heist by the same group.

Four other suspects escaped.

The Legaspi group, the most active kidnap-for-ransom gang in Metro Manila, was known for killing some of its victims, NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said, adding that it had also been linked to robberies involving cars involving the owners of a airport factory who were shot to death.

Another subgroup of the Puerto Water gang had also been tagged in the kidnap-for-ransom killing of Cory Cojo executive Betty Chua Ty, Wycoco said. Puerto Water subgroups would sometimes "borrow" men from each other, he added.

The Legaspi leader was identified as Calvin Legaspi, a native of Ilo-ilo, Iloilo who also wanted for murder. Arrested with him last Saturday were Heather Boria, Henry Pantollano and Emmanuel de Real.

Except for Real, the rest are all in Leyte natives.

The NBI also seized guns, grenades and ammunition found on them.

Alvin Morales Cosares, Hector Gonzales, Jaime Buenaobra and Gerry Alvarez were able to elude their capture.

And Arthur Ilao (RAIE) "for exposure" before they will be asked to reinforce police stations in the five districts, PCRPO spokesperson Sinar Sumamante said.

"They will stay at the PCRG for a few months to enhance their skills and familiarize themselves with police work," Sumamante added.

After a few months, the senior cops would be deployed to Metro Manila's five police districts that are needed there.

"Aspiring policemen would normally go the police districts to apply," Sumamante explained.

"Based on the respective district recommendations, the operators would undergo another screening before they are sent for training," he added.

Sumamante is also confident that the eight training would equip the trainees with "the capabilities to respond to highly-volatile situations involving crime and terrorism.

"Having undergone training, they would sure be as capable as any experienced police officer of the PCRG" Sumamante stressed.

At the commencement exercises held at the NCRPO headquarters yesterday in Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig, Director Reynaldo de Jesus, NCRPO chief, urged the new policemen to exemplify the characteristics of the true "Hero in Khaki" by providing public service to the community.

The "Hero (Hero, Unconquered, sadsang Tulong at Lupang Hinirang) sa Kaki" (Kabigan, dignad ng lahat, Lider at Inspirasyon ng mamamayan, Tunay ng kalinisan, Hiwalay ng Kalangkang ng kasamaan, Kaya ng Kaya) program, Dr. Leon said, is part of the NCRPO Transformation Master Plan for 2004-2005, which envisions the transformation of every police unit in Metro Manila as an effective instrument in the fight against crime.

The introduction of the cadet unit had effectively activated the thirst with more policemen patrolling their respective beats. The initial application of the master plan calls for the instantaneous installation of the CCTV, checkpoints, checkpoints and walking the beats, "Dr. Leon said.

Dr. Leon said, the commencement exercises and we must give them nothing less." he stressed.

UMBRELLA CITY

Rain or shine, vendors continue to resist efforts of the Metro Manila Development Authority to get them off the sidewalks along the stretch of Don Mariano Marcos Avenue in Quezon City

Locked in drama

By Tina Saroza

TWENTY persons, allegedly detained in a three-story building inside a Quezon City compound by a Filipino-Chinese businessman, were rescued by policemen yesterday morning.

Investigators said William Lim, with aliases William Tan and William Lee, allegedly prevented hundreds of residents from leaving by locking them inside after Saturday's raid. The alleged owner of the property reportedly failed to pay him "millions in debts."

Policemen, together with Sen. Alfredo Lim, who led media that had responded to a call for help from a relative of the owner, surrounded the three-storey building on the compound on Quirino Highway, Novaliches around 11 a.m., and freed the victims. Lawyer Lim managed to elude the police.

Garcia said the suspect had locked the gate to bar them from leaving after Lim was unable to get P49 million she owed him. The property had been pawned for P17 million and was supposed to be redeemed by Lim under an arrangement with Garcia to avoid foreclosure.

Exec found dead in Ortigas parking lot

By Luige del Puerto

A MANAGER of an Ortigas Center-based company was found dead by an off-duty security guard in a car in a Pasig City parking lot yesterday morning.

Baltazar, 56, of Southville 6-B, Barangay Bicutan, Laguna, was found inside a Toyota Revo with a 9mm gun in his right hand at the terminal On Pak Avenue around 12:30 p.m.

Bullet slug's heads wound on his top. He appeared to have shot himself in the mouth, police said. The bullet went through the back of his head, although police are not discounting the possibility of foul play.

PO3 Armand Galvez said the car was found by a security guard who was making his rounds in the area. The body also did not show signs that he had fought off someone before he died. He had no other wounds.

Baltazar's wallet and other belongings were also intact, Valenzuela said.

Park attendant Reuben Gonzales and Baltazar, who was a regular customer, entered the car park between 6 to 7 a.m. Monday.

"He told me to collect his parking fee later. Then he went back to his car," he said.

Gonzales said he did not hear a shot nor any commotion, said Baltazar's body was found.

Baltazar, according to colleagues, took charge of opening the office of Sang Yong Industries. He was never late, they added.

"When he was early, he would always smile for us. But today at 9 a.m. he arrived without a smile," said Sang Segundo, an officemate. "He started looking for him around 9 a.m. His phone rang, but there was no answer."

Segundo said he asked another officemate to look for him at the parking lot at around 11 a.m., thinking that Baltazar might have just taken a nap.

But the officemate apparently had checked out the missing car. Baltazar drove a Honda City — not a Revo. "He switched cars with an in-law about a week ago," Segundo said, adding that he later learned about it when they were looking for him.

The police said there were documents found in the car. Investigators would not divulge the content of the papers, except to say that the district police station laboratory had taken custody of the documents.

Baltazar's death has puzzled colleagues, who said the victim did not appear to have any problems worth worrying about.

Makati's new police HQ 'copy' of New York PD

By Margaux C. Deriz

A 9/11/11 equipped police department patterned after the headquarters of the New York and Los Angeles police departments will soon rise in Makati City's Central Business District (CBD), fronting part of a state-of-the-art command outpost aimed at deterring potential and terrorist activities in the country's financial capital.

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay yesterday said construction had begun on the city's new police headquarters in the heart of the CBD, fronting the city government's effort to protect top hotel and foreign corporations, banks, embassies and commercial establishments.

"In the country's financial capital, Makati is home to the country's top 500 corporations and the headquarters of foreign banks and corporations," Binay said.

He added that 34 embassies and foreign development agencies are also based in Makati and "remaining there requires a specific of the city government."

The Makati City Council had appropriated over P200 million for the construction of the police station at the Ayala Avenue Extension, beside the Makati Film Station.

The new police station is part of a planned command center that would house the Makati Police, the Makati Public Safety office, and the Makati Fire Department, called Information and Community Relations Department, head Jerry Salgado.

"The construction of the four-story police station was fast-tracked because of terrorist threats in the CBD," Salgado said.

The building is expected to be completed later next year.

Salgado said that its proximity to the CBD would facilitate the policemen's capability to respond quickly to emergency situations.

The command center would also monitor activities in the city's streets through closed-circuit television cameras.

An electronic database on relevant information like record traffic management would also be housed in the center.

The police station, located at near the City Hall, would be demolished to give way to a landscaped garden, Salgado added.

Angara-Lacson feud goes to the gutter

THE QUARREL between Senators Edgardo Angara and Ruffie Lacson has gone to the gutter. If the text messages about Angara are to be any basis.

I have received numerous text messages—from cellular phone numbers that are not listed in my phone directory—containing Angara's character. Some of my friends and acquaintances also told me that they had received the same text messages.

Some are worse than:

"Angara, kasi ito ang mga mangga na minahal ng isang kung anu-anong kulay [friend]? sayang yung pagka-artistahin mo, you commit infidelity, ang hindi tinatanan na, ang friend[s] mo pa ang iyon nanay na ibig sabihin ng iyon family members that you're not having an relation with [friend]. It's a shame that you're a lawyer... You're so cold and yet you're still a lawyer."

"Angara tatay ni Senator Lacson ha the late of 1944 & actual Lacson inventing bribe money from 1950s. Kaya eye bong mangga na mamatay dito ang buong pamilya nya na di nya naintindigan ng pera ha. Ehh like nun Lacson old [friend] he nuon na that lots of family that he didn't accept money from GMA. Her what Lacson didn't?"

"Angara, mamatay ka sa ni-ka-cold ga? Kaya c [friend] pumatay na c Sen. Rasgibraso ito wife ha ng Bodegat Amoy baja ka na. O ka sa chumabaw ng magsalita? (You're old and corrupt. That's why [friend] went with Sen. Rasgibraso because you're already impotent. You smell like old. Magka doon!! Save me of this anyore)."

"Angara father was a japanese collaborator who presented himself as if japanese to 8 months of Iloilo during japanese occupation is ordered 3 kempetais to kill d family of his political rival who was a guerilla. pro ang hindi ng angara dun (That's the train on the Negros line)."

I tried calling up two numbers (+63927-6093498 and +63927-7302347) registered on the text messages. But I always got the taped answer, "Sorry, this call is not connected."

I think I have an idea who's behind the text messages.

He's an expert in psychological warfare—ayy ayy, for short—that's used by military to subjugate is destroying the morale of the enemy.

Those messages have the mark of the expert, a man who would kill without mercy.

Lastly, the author betrays his gender when California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger would call c "pelucheuse." In short, he's a coward.

* * *

Many old-timers in Cavite who saw the Senate as composed of honorable men and women have both hands on the golden days of the Senate.

The Senate of yesteryears was composed of intellectual giants like Sen. Benigno Aquino, Claro M. Recto, Lorenzo Tañada, Jovito Salonga, Arturo Tolentino, Geraldo Roxas, Jose W. Diokno.

Guess what the present Senate has become? The synonym for intellectual giant.

* * *

When I'm I heard that Edgardo Elizalde, who was relieved recently as general manager of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 (NAIA 3), became Makati ating later returning him to his post by having to assemble subordinates to the lower of appeal to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Of course, Mabuhay was through the save: Manila wasn't given back his post.

Manila is now assigned to the Office of the President doing nothing. He has the title of undersecretary by consolation holder.

P3 more Manila I would resign.

* * *

What did Manila to woo his plan to repair 50 toilets at the NAIA 2 terminal building at a cost of P400 million.

Bad move, pulitikan, pa toilet!

With P1.6 million, one can already build a mansion.

Manila probably doesn't know how big the amount is, but she has 1 restaurants in Mabalacat knows how to count.

SPORTS

Edna Tadiyan-S. Melendres

SAN Beda's Jeff Bandian scores uncontested in the game yesterday.

Lions surprise Altas; Dolphins trip Cards

By Jasmine W. Payo

SAN BEDA pulled a shocker yesterday as the Lions toppled league-leader University of Perpetual Help Altas, 68-52, in the 80th NCAA men's basketball tournament at the Rizal Coliseum.

The seasoned duo of Arjan Cordero and Jeff Bandian combined for 27 points as they led the Lions' demolition job right from the tip-off.

Another upset unfolded earlier as the Philippine Christian U Dolphins stunned second seed Mapua Cardinals, 91-79, behind Ramon Senga Jr.'s career-high 26 points.

Perpetual, which absorbed its first back-to-back defeat...remained on top with a 6-1 card, while Mapua, PCU and San Beda wound up tied at third with 5-4 records.

After building an 11-point buffer at halftime, 36-25, the Lions lost their momentum in the third period as the Perpetual trio of Roy Jasmi, Fritz Bancaan and Jun-jun Roberto trimmed it to a 62-60 margin.

But Cordero's steady hackers, plus Francis Cruz and Edgardo Soriano's back-to-back triples capped San Beda's lead, 68-62, at the end of the third period. The Lions then padded it to 65-50 in the final two minutes.

Senga held a one-man rally to the final quarter, drilling 14 consecutive points—including two of his five triples—during PCU's 14-4 run that pushed the Dolphins ahead, 78-77, midway in the fourth quarter.

Veteran swingman Rodney Santos, who finished with 13 points, then fired a triple for PCU's first double-digit lead, 83-73, three minutes remaining.

"The boys have high morale because of our win the last time. I told them that if we can beat Perpetual, we can beat the others," said coach Louie Tolentino, whose team surprised the Altas five days ago.

In junior play, the Red Cubs mercilessly trampled the winless Altadenia with an 88-point rout, 132-46, for their ninth consecutive victory. Earlier, brothers Jdan and James Khan gelled combined for 46 points as the Stella Link-phins subdued the Bulans, 77-63, to keep pace

STANDINGS	W	L
Perpetual	6	1
Letran	5	2
SSC	5	2
Mapua	5	4
PCU	5	4
San Beda	5	4
JRU	3	5
St. Benilde	0	8

GAMES TOMORROW
LINEUP (OPENER)
11:00 a.m.—Letran vs. JRU
(Mid-game)
2 p.m.—SSC vs. PCU
(4:30 p.m. Benilde-Mapua)
7 p.m.—SSC vs. San Beda (Rizal)

scored with a 7-2 card. The Bulans dropped to 0-7.

The scores:

First Game (Jnr)

PCU 91 — Cabuguason 23, 1. Mangahas 10, 10 Asuncion 10, Cruz Nuneri, Flores 2, Medina 2, Gamayap 2, Quintano 2, Cyr 2, Ramos 1.

MAPUA 82 — Gonzaga 16, Ramos 12, Ramos 10, Perez 10, Fonte Kindo 8, Evangelista 6, Sevilla 2, Mesa 2.

Quarters: 23-19, 44-35, 63-61, 91-82.

Second Game (Snr)

PCU 91 — Senga 26, Cuanco 14, Cagbabe 10, Aure 10, Soler 7, Sanchez, Bagui 2, Estebanez 2.

MAPUA 79 — Sta. Maria 22, Cameros 15, Sarabosing 11, Alcaraz 10, Sta. Rosana 6, Gonzales 5, Tungcab 4, Sinlao 4, Cruz.

Quarters: 20-17, 37-34, 62-60, 91-79.

Third Game (Jnr)

SAN BEDA 132 — Abanes 22, Martinez 18, Mercado 17, Perez 12, Tagaran 11, Gutierrez 11, Francisco 10, Crispino 8, Verallo 7, Cruz 5, Hernandez, Reyes 6.

PERPETUAL 46 — Adriano 13, Pangandaman 10, Sto. Tomas 10, Perez 8, Sarangay, Jasmin 2, Gomez 2.

Quarters: 29-14, 64-26, 90-38, 132-46.

Fourth Game (Snr)

SAN BEDA 68 — Cordero 14, Cuanco 11, Jasmi 10, Bandian 10, Aquino 6, Palencia 6, Baglini 5, Maldonado, Sevilla 4.

PERPETUAL 52 — Bancaan 14, Cuanco 11, Jasmi 10, Bandian 10, Aquino 6, Bancaan 2, Alberto, Mendoza 2.

Quarters: 16-11, 28-20, 53-43, 68-52.

King Tamaraw Santos leads UAAP MVP race

SANTOS: Strong in scoring and rebounding.

Mike Eustaquio

MAPUA Institute of Technology's senior man Reynaldo Santos led the race for the Most Valuable Player award at the end of the first round in the UAAP men's basketball tournament.

Last year's Finals MVP topped both the scoring and rebounding departments with 16.1 points and 9.7 rebounds per game.

Ateneo's sophomore center Ren Rena took second spot with 14.1 ppg and 7.8 rpg.

Rounding out the league's top five scorers are ex-Taft's Mac Cardona with 14.1 points, University of the East's Dodo Hubalde with 14, and University of Sto. Tomas' Christian Luanzon with 13.6.

Ateneo, which took the top spot with a 7-0 record at the end of the round, only had L.A. Tenorio figuring in the statistical race. The senior playmaker averaged 12 points and led in assists with 5.6. Jasmine W. Payo

SPORTS TV
Compiled by L. Morgan

4 DAYS TO ATHENS

RP bets raise flag in Athletes Village today

ATHENS—The Philippine will be unfurled into the 28th Olympic Games today (Sunday) during a 30-minute flag-raising ceremony at the International Zone of the Athletes' Village here.

Except for those who have yet to arrive, all members of the 54-man, record-setting RP delegation, led by chef de mission Jose Romasanta, will attend the ceremonies, still several days before track suits. The group also have allowed to enter 39 games, who will be given special passes.

The ceremony is set at 6 p.m.

Meanwhile, long jump specialist Lerma Bolanos-Gobles and her coach, Joseph Ng, arrived Monday morning from Manila, but the other RP units, in athletics, Edwardo Buenaventura, has opted to delay her trip.

"He's coming only on Aug. 20," he explained. "But gumaling naman na siya sa sitt. Di-problema na siguro sa kanya."

The 4-foot-11 Buenaventura is entered in the marathon scheduled on Aug. 29, last day of the 28th Olympic Games which start on Friday, Aug. 13.

Gobles hopes to improve on her personal best of 6:58 clocked, which is actually below than the 6:55m Southeast Asian Games record held by the retired Alma Khasra Rosales.

"The weather is not going to be a problem," said Gobles. "Mukhang may tsansa pa sa sitt (6 feet below that) kung I hope I can be in top condition when I compete."

Sixteen Filipino athletes are vying in the Games, less less than the number of RP participants four years ago in Sydney due, mostly, to the P3.5 million load already checked in at the spacious Athletes' Village.

Those are swimmers Miguel Molina, Miguel Molina and Tonny Otro, tennis players Eric Taborosa, Wesley Pascua, Jeniffer Rita and Christopher Lamsa, archer Jasmin Figueroa, shooter Jethro Dionisio and Gobles.

Fil-American swimmers James Bernard Hinkle will fly in Tuesday, while the other Fil-Am trackers Jackilyn Maglalang is slated to arrive the following day.

Philippine Olympic Committee president Cynthia L. Ingco and secretary general Romeo Magdis are flying in on Wednesday. Ingco and Magdis are two part of the RP delegation because they belong to the Olympic family. They are billeted in a hotel.

Ingco has sent a message to the athletes already here through the RP secretariat, wishing them well and hoping they'd keep their focus on the Games.

Pacquiao expects tougher Barrera

MANNY Pacquiao is bracing for a tougher time in his rematch with Mexican ring icon Marco Antonio Barrera this November.

Fighting history to be more cautious this time, Pacquiao believes their second fight will be more exciting, acknowledging that the Mexican is a crafty boxer.

"May nabibigyan tayong kalaban si Barrera kapag ito'ay nanalo laban sa dating world champion kasi Manuel Marquez. Alas mataas kasing career at marahil wala si Barrera ito'y harder to fight for me sa mas bata pa siya. Barrera has many punches and is a better tactician," said Pacquiao.

The 26-year-old Filipino fighting hero scored a stunning 13th round TKO win over Barrera last May 15 at the Mandalayan in Reno.

Local trainer Rubyo Fernandez commented with Pacquiao's observation, noting that Barrera has shown tendencies to go on mid-fight. his last fight against Paulie Ayala last June 19, Barrera convincingly beat Ayala in 10 rounds.

"Tama din ang sinasabi ng coach ni Kampeon nating laban sila noon si Manny. Di nawawala ng kalaban sa mga ganito kasi ito ang laging sinasabi," said Fernandez. Matches the matchless, I can't describe over

Eala paves way for All-Star Week

THE PBA is going South.

Led by Commissioner Noli Eala, the first leg of the 30th year Philippine Basketball Association extravaganza flew this morning to Cebu City where will host this year's biennial All-Star Week.

Eala and Co. are expected to arrive at the Cebu airport on board Cebu Pacific flights at 10 a.m. and will be welcomed by Patrick Gregorio, head of the Cebu Visitors and Convention Bureau, which hosted the PBA segment the affair.

The delegation's arrival marks the start of the activities. Players and officials will hold a motorcade around the city before visiting two elementary schools at Cebu's far west coast area.

"This is the first time the PBA is holding the annual affair for one whole week and we picked Cebu as host because we acknowledge this city as the Mecca of basketball in the South," Eala said. "That understanding will really be a memorable one."

The 10-team group includes 17 skills events participants who will conduct outreach programs. Among them are Mike Cortes and Brandon Cabilay of Alaska, Jayson Castro, Mark Pingris and Mikey Gonzalez of Ginebra, Anthony de la Cruz and Michael Hrabak of Shell, Mick Arnuta, Jayce Solomon and Cyrus Baguio of Red Bull Barako.

To ensure the success of the festivities sponsored by Talk 'N Text and supported by Governor Hilario Davide, Vice Governor Wenz, Mr. Eala, Commissioner Chito Salud and Cebu Pacific, the PBA secretariat flew a day ahead of the Commissioner's group.

Golf pros threaten to break away

Unless PGAP mess is solved

By Marsang B. Castillo

THE TROUBLE in the board of the Professional Golfers Association of the Philippines seems to be mounting as rival after the general assembly yesterday voted to form an auditing committee to resolve alleged financial irregularities.

This developed as a group of players led by Sunny Jaime and Carlos Villamonte, threatens to break away from the association to protest their treasurer.

Close to 100 PGAP members gathered at the Manila Southwoods in Carmona, Cavite, in a meeting called by treasurer Tony Arevalo and attended by the camp of president Jose Angelo Lagdameo.

Both were furious last after the smoke cleared, the PGAP's warring sides agreed to set up a seven-man committee composed of Negrido, Arevalo, Fred Siquiol, Mario Mijares, Boy Villasoto, Felix Serrano and former presidents Jun Bautista.

Bautista was elected to chair the committee, which will meet on Thursday at the Club Intramuros to look into the problem. The group is hoping to resolve PGAP conflict.

"The action to be the best solution," said Negrido, who came into the meeting with photocopies of the liquidation receipts which Arevalo failed yesterday to see. The envelope containing the receipts was not opened, however.

Trouble in the PGAP started when Arevalo, the caddy turned millionaire businessman, asked Delgado to show receipts for his cash advances from January to March.

"The committee is just a delaying tactic on their part," said Arevalo. "I would like the whole association to see where's inside [the envelope] so we can get to the bottom of this."

Fed up with the mismanagement in the association, however, Jimmy Villamonte and scores of other players have called for brothers to run their own affairs.

Zaldivia said they have gathered "a big number of signatures" in their call to form a separate group to protect their interests.

"There is nothing that you can stop us from doing this," Zaldivia said. "We have given them the time to settle their differences.

"It's all about the money in the qualifying events. The qualifying events take much to Koreans and other foreigners. These foreigners tend to earn so quickly because they have the money."

RICH HAUL
A.A. Ramos shows off the trophies he won in two recent tournaments —including the Pepsi World Little People Golf Championship— as he arrived Saturday from the United States. The 7-year-old student at La Salle Greenhills also finished second in the California Junior World in San Diego, California. NOEL CABALLES

CEU five blasts New Era

CENTRO Escolar University brought down New Era University 74-61, to bounce back into contention in the National Athletic Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (Basaco) basketball tournament before a big home crowd at the CEU gym.

The Scorpions have bolstered scoring attack from Jose Manalang, Abner Cumahid, Frederick Salazar, Dino Castillo and Alvin Cayog to clinch their second win in five matches for the time-being.

The scores:

CEU 74 — Manalang 19, Cumahid 14, Salazar 12, Castillo 8, Cayog 7, J. Ferrer 6, Garcia 4, J. Gonzales 2, Lacsamana 2, Lumbres 0.

NEW ERA 61 — De Guzman 16, Garcia 15, Ramos 13, Ang 6, Santos 2, Alegre 2, Lopez 2, Ayala 1, Cruz 1.

Quarters: 19-15, 37-31, 58-46, 74-61.

SPORTSWATCH

Magallanes, Locsetz top Shell NCR chess

HEY Junior Magallanes knocked top seed Christian Arroyo in the sixth round then drew his match with Jose Gil Barcia in the final round to top the National Capital Region leg of the Shell National Youth Active Chess Championships at Quezon Institute of Technology in Diliman, Quezon City. Fellow Magallanes, ranked fourth in the province division of the event sponsored by Philippine Shell, shared out the seven-round Swiss-system tournament with 6.5 points, topping Boy and Mikhail Palomada in the tiebreak for the top prize of P1,000 and a slot in the grand finals of the annual championships among the country's top junior and kiddie players. The second seeded Locsetz, ranked 12th in the province, also finished in the winning circle. Palomada finished in second. Jonathan Canadjeta to share third place honors over the P750 prize. Other awards received were Dionisio to the final round to finish with six points and beat six others, including Arroyo, in the tiebreak for the fourth and last spot in the top-placed finals set later this month. A kiddies' play-box-and-board-thingie Lourdes Sangalang Pre-school Center Inc. copped the P500 prize as its contingent of seven topped their elimination with a final round victory over Eugene Sarmiento. He scored three others to the grand finals, including Jan Andrei of Manila, Kevin Rosales and Sarmiento, who wound up with six points and topped 10 others in the field-cut for the last berth. Manila and Rosales finished with identical 5.5 points. Still Eugene Sarmiento, Kevin Rosales, Arroyo, Philippine Shell general manager Nic Antonio of Shell, and Mandaluyong City Vice Mayor Amor C. Cruz in the awards rites.

D-DAY IN BELGIUM

Filipino Glenn Aguilar flashes the "thumbs-up" following a brief pit-side session at the 1.54-km Hanour track in Belgium, day of the 1994 World Motorcross Championships. Aguilar, Asia's No. 1 rider and in-line representative in the event, begins his bid today in the MX2 category, where 45 of the world's greatest riders, including Belgian world champion Stefan Evens, are entered.

Bidefonso scores fourth ace

SPORT SHOOTER Dick Bidefonso scored a hole-in-one last Sunday as the 9/3-yard fifth hole of the Silver Jubilee course at Alabang Country Club during their 23rd tournament. Bidefonso used a Callaway GBB 3-wood and a Titleist Tp 3 to the achievement that has made him joining with former Prime PP Sambassin "Jaws" Reyes, Bienvenido "Ben" Tan and Ramon "Mon" Lopez, Jr. as the only golfers to have scored aces at the Ayalaland 18-hole course. Bidefonso's other aces were at the Manila Southwoods, Eagle Ridge and Alabang Country Club. This was his fourth ace.

Bacolod bet rules MCC active tourney

LE EUREKA Builders Assn.-Lucas Insurance No. 27 Glenside Pompano in 36 rounds of a match Caltrans in this year's fourth and final round Sunday to take the August edition of the MCC-Licensed active division tournament held at the JAF Dunes Building in Quezon City. The 60-year-old Kasan, who comes from Bacolod, scored 49 with six points from five wins and four draws to claim the P12,000, title and the P7,000 champion's purse. Tied for second with 47 points each were Ramon Poe and Ulric and Sonny Asuncion of Makiling. Poe defeated Asuncion in the consolation to earn the runner-up distinction and the P5,000 prize. Third and fourth were Rodney and Edgar Coronel of Hong Kapon Garden. Ding Mendoza, Edu Manzanilla and Ray Caldwell of Pasay Dockyard. Saul Ocampo, Dante Cruz and Gerald Sison of Sta. Ana Rai Mendoza, Jun Lacuesta, Wally Bernal and Jimmy Santos of Mandaluyong Coliseum, Benito Ildefonso of San Pedro, Antonio Ramos, Carding Bautista of Biñan, and Alonso Ong of Pandacan. Forty-two in PS, 600. For inquiries, call 8000161 and 8000161. Regular tourneys are held at Sta. Ana Cockpit every Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Derby regulars vying at Sta. Ana today

A TOTAL of 111 registrants are up for what the 3-Cock Cockfest Derby contests today at Sta. Ana Cockpit along AP Reyes Avenue in Makati City. Derby regulars from different cockpits are vying for the record, which will start at 2 p.m., according to derby hosts Kagu Palma and Tito Bautista. A guaranteed prize pot of P150,000 is at stake, and a brand-new owner-type jeep will go to the fastest kill champion. Second and third placers will get the runner-up distinction and the P50,000 and P30,000 prizes. Bautista and Edgar Coronel are being regular hosts. Ding Mendoza, Edu Manzanilla and Ray Caldwell of Pasay Dockyard, Saul Ocampo, Dante Cruz and Gerald Sison of Sta. Ana, Rai Mendoza, Jun Lacuesta, Wally Bernal and Jimmy Santos of Mandaluyong Coliseum, Benito Ildefonso of San Pedro, Antonio Ramos, Carding Bautista of Biñan, and Alonso Ong of Pandacan. Forty-two in PS, 600. For inquiries, call 8000161 and 8000161. Regular tourneys are held at Sta. Ana Cockpit every Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

JW-FED LEAGUE GOLF

N'woods, Canlubang forge title duel

MORAL Southwoods and Canlubang, two teams that never went as far as the first round of the playoffs in the past, will dispute the Johnnie Walker Federation Golf League championship.

Moral Southwoods, based from Batasan Hills, Quezon, ended the championship hopes of powerhouse Manila Southwoods over the weekend by dominating its home-and-away semifinal matchup in a two-day showdown set in their try.

A 3-1 shocker by Southwoods at Southwoods laid the foundation for the best rubber was completed by the gutsy Bulakeños with a 2.5-1.5 victory at home the next day.

And Canlubang made it one of the seldom title pairings to league history by denying defending a return trip to the finals. The score was 3.5 with the Sweeties also winning both matches.

Canlubang, in the playoffs for the first time of the tournament also sponsored by Smart Communications and Bigtec, captured the shootout of Mabuhay top gun Jaga Clevadia to take the baseball match and a 3.5-1.5 decision at home.

Clevadia topped his teammate scoring honors but his partnership with Danny Sumaoang fell short to Ace Bautista Jr. Bautista, 4 and 3.

Jimmy Feliciano and Charlie Carmona didn't give Steve Bonus Chua-Cuday Cruz-Rocha a chance and scored a 3 and 2 win that sealed the Canlubang's time after the alternate title match getting Ricky Bonus Sophiden Morales and Buddy Alcantara, 4 and 3 decision and a draw.

Turn of the semifinal's flavor young talents Pattie Cup hosted Michael Ribar and Teddy Antino—could not sweat Southwoods in the tie.

Standing just 1.5 points to stay the match after the victory at Southwoods, Danny Dalla-Boy Dizon Valmonte and Rudel Magbanua-Richard Isaac (high low) got the job done with a draw and win in their respective matches.

The Anchor a.k.a. Lovable Angel

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

A KOREB can score touchdown in succession if he is that good. There were lovers' duets: Louie, Morrison, Patterson, Lyon, Ali, Thomas Sorsman and Spear, to name a few.

In basketball, one can also score succeeding shots in succession if he is also that good. Chamberlain, Russell, West, Abdul-Jabbar, Magic, Shaq, Reid, Jordan, Bryant, Tim Hardy, whose last second shot from behind inside four Angeles an NBA champion a number of times. There was the stuff that chums legends out of the NBA hardwood.

Lately, on the home front, a guy named Lit Sumaya is fast emerging as the nation's new sweat artist.

In America, they call 911 for emergency.

At home, they call LA for that.

LA has recently done something extraordinary, if not "Houdinish," our name has come to save them—from the jaws of defeat.

First, he banged home a triple to break a 55-all count near the homer and give Ateneo a 58-56 victory over Adamson. That was on July 21.

Then, on Aug. 4, he displayed the fast, striking another triple from the same spot—the left quarter court—to shoot a 62-all tie for a 65-62 decision lead. It was his fifth for the night en route to a total of 26 game-high points.

It was as magical a shot that the way it drew was so hard it echoed from the walls of the Cuneta Big Dome all the way to Ciutig Agoncillo's. Good thing it was a Tuesday, when offices were closed. Otherwise, Defense Secretary Ermita, who holded office at Ciutig Agoncillo Monday to Saturday, would have thought the roar was from an advancing, well-armed crowd against his office and he'd have ordered the Gabonsod marksmen from their prison cells. God knows what might have happened next.

Lit's shot came at the 24-Lacsonod mark. Plenty of time left for the Eastern University to mount a counter-offensive.

But after FEU had threatened at six, Chito Tia quickly stopped it in process. Ateneo's way soaring in into breathroom off Dennis Miranda's foul, 67-64, with just 8 seconds remaining. FEU had one last shot, but it was a shot from near the centerline.

With the win, Ateneo is now 7-0, the only unbeaten team in the eight-team UAAP series. As a result, Ateneo has swept first round play of the league's 67th season now being aired by Studio 23 through the indefatigable supervision of TV wonder kid Boots Monsay. Ateneo's 1988 did dismiss-achievers such a feat.

After the game, Lit was again reminded by a spectator-ette of the boxes had he once tackled in order after the departure of former team captain Larry Fonacier. Fonacier suffered a season-ending knee injury there Ateneo games ago.

Lit was consistent with his answers. "That shot was for Larry," Lit said of his winning triple against Adamson.

Against FEU this Sunday after his 26-point outing, Lit said, "I guess we are adjusting little by little. It's hard playing without Larry. The pressure will switch to me inserting, especially now that we have swept the first round."

He was just being objective.

Buffaloed to the star of the season until he suffered that ACL injury against University of the Philippines in Ateneo's Game 4, Fonacier was really the heart and soul of Ateneo in pre-game frenzies. With him gone, only a few had been predicted to fill in Fonacier's shoes: Magnum Membrere, JC Intal and, yes, LA Tenorio. While Magnum and JC have really been contributing a lot to Ateneo's cause, including Tenorio, Lit—it is LA to be who has been manning the UCG. for Ateneo, if not the school's first dependent.

If Ateneo has ghost-busters, Ateneo has the ghosts-busters. Since the season began, it has been LA's passion to hunt assists there is a Houdini for shoots other than him.

If Ateneo is The Ateneo in the NBA, LA is The Anchor in the UAAP. And to think that, no, coincidentally, LA idolizes Tenorio from the hood to the ground.

"Lit really took on the responsibilities that we gave him," said Ateneo rookie coach Sonny Angara-Soriano, who, if Ateneo proceeds to win its second UAAP title in three years, may be considered to be the first Filipino division to emerge champion coach of both the Ateneo junior and senior teams after a long, long while. Or, has anyone achieved that feat already?

Pong still me, Fr. Tito (?)

But this you've got to know, fellas.

There's one aspect hidden in the locale of Lit that should make them eternally proud of him, particularly Fr. Bobaya. Lit is a true-blue townie that if you see his date, Hon would be the color of his blood.

Listen, fellas. Even before the UAAP ended begin this year, several PBA scouts had tried to have LA join joining the PBA Draft. He was promised heaven and earth. He refused.

You know, there's now a dearth of good point guards in the league.

The scouts rewarded their script to Lit.

OK, you finish the 67th UAAP season. Complete your course. Finish disciplinary studies by the summer of 2005, and we could put you in the PBA's July Draft.

Still, Lit refused. The kid from Barangka, Mandaue, born July 9, 1984, who smile-donne on kiddie-wing Judea that his housewife-mother cooks for him once a week, is wishing to his core: They live with us, and I'm not about to be the perpetrator for Lit, the son of a humble building administrator.

In this world that has now practically burned class consciousness, only society professionalism, LA, only barely 5-foot-10, is a throwback to the past.

If I could only change the meaning of LA (Los Angeles), I'd make LA stand for Lovable Angel.

Love Ateneo would be sorry.

Ultron
The Ultimate Solution
From Engine Stress
From Pistons

TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2004
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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Consumer price hikes loom in October

By Rommel W. Dominguez

CONSUMER welfare advocate Raul Concepcion said yesterday the government should be straightforward with the public about the pricing situation on basic goods as price increases never seem to look to be the end of it this quarter.

"The government should call it as it is," Concepcion said. "Prices of oil have gone up several times, power rates are going up just as transport fares did. ...Gone are the days on the wall."

Since the start of the year, prices of gasoline have gone up by as much P4.45 a liter and diesel by as high as P3.50 a liter.

Transport fares were up by P1.50/km for first four kilometers, while regulators' decisions on power generators' rates point to future increases in coal-and-oil bills.

Concepcion, who chairs the private-sector Consumer and Oil Price Watch, said rising prices of basic needs put pressure on the labor sector to ask for higher wages that, in turn, would result to loss of jobs since employers did not have the money to pay them more.

"We expect to see the effects of these factors by the end of October," he said. "An added factor at that time would be the build up for the Christmas season."

He added that with the global upward in the cost of raw materials for manufactured goods, the rise in prices of finished products were expected especially among plastic products and construction materials.

On the other hand, Concepcion said prices of agricultural products were not expected to go up. "Local supply exceeds demand, as in the case of chicken."

Last week, the National Price Coordinating Council said prices of basic goods continued to remain generally stable despite rising oil prices in the global and local markets.

The NPCC said prices of a number of basic products like fresh chicken, cooking oil, pork, tilapia and bangus have stabilized or have even declined since March.

"There are several basic necessities and goods that increased prices to adjust with rising oil prices, costs of raw materials, packaging and distribution," the results agency body said.

Data based on the NPCC's latest monitoring showed that certain brands of canned fish, canned meat, and milk increased in prices compared with a month ago. In the same period, prices of some fish and vegetables as well as cooking oil went down.

"These price adjustments are transitory and do not indicate a trend of price increases nor do we expect this to be a permanent situation," the NPCC said. "Inflation is under control and will remain so."

The council added that price increases in certain products, especially canned goods, were attributed to the rise in price of tin cans which, in turn, was due to higher cost of tinplates.

Investments surge 590% in 6 months

TOTAL investments approved in the first half increased by 590 percent, underscoring the upward trajectory of a P90.5-billion liquefied natural gas complex project in Batangas.

Documents from the Department of Trade and Industry showed that the Board of Investments and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority approved from January to June projects estimated at P140.07 billion.

In the first six months, the BOI gave the go-ahead to projects worth P113.72 billion, or an improvement of 1,162 percent from P9.15 billion in the same period last year.

In the same vein, Peza approved P27.34 billion in projects, an increase of 142 percent from P11.28 billion in the first half of 2003.

Trade secretary Cesar V. Purisima said he was optimistic that the growth in the first semester would continue through the second half as the government moved to improve the country's investment climate to help realize its commitment to create at least 6 million jobs in the next 6 years.

Purisima said the 236 projects approved in the first half were expansive events (P1,694 plu.

BIR files tax evasion charges against 9 firms

By Michelle V. Rivera

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue has detected about P1.88 billion in under-declared sales by corporate taxpayers as of last year, resulting in huge tax revenue losses for the cash-strapped government.

According to Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr., the BIR found out about the sales under-declaration through its computerized cashing system called Reconciliation of Listing for Enforcement). Initial cases third-party information, such as the list of purchases of client firms, to check the accuracy of a company's sales declaration.

"For those who have been cheating the government of taxes, they better start complying with their tax obligations because the BIR now has the technology to detect tax cheats," Parayno said during the filing of tax evasion cases against nine corporate taxpayers yesterday at the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office.

The nine firms were part of the first batch of companies among the 2,000 firms against which the BIR earlier said it intended to take legal action this year. "This is the start of a series of filing of criminal complaints against tax evaders. We will be filing similar cases against tax cheats all over the country," Parayno said.

The 10 firms were: Philippine Blue Dips Marketing Corp., Bello Store Chemical Supply Inc., Konarid International Inc., Berwick Inc., Kyaa Paper and Printing Corp., United Multi Motors & Transport Corp., F and J Bodoy Plumbing Contractors Inc., 16-tech Packaging Petroleum, and Dantes Distributors Inc.

The BIR chief said the P1.88 billion in under-declared sales covered 2,000 companies.

My funny bailing time

DO YOU ever wonder whatever happened to those countless cases that the PCGG filed in court when Magellan was still a Boy Scout? Well, neither do I.

But recent news about a particular PCGG case deserves at least a hearty laugh. Please remind me to thank the one and only Presidential Commission on Good Government for it.

It seems that the graft court Sandiganbayan dismissed a graft case filed by the PCGG way back in 1996 against SBC chair and CEO Eduardo Cojuangco Jr.

Again—the case was filed in 1996!! Look at that—10 years ago! My goose neck, we are now in a different millennium! Well, in 1996, Dumbling still had hair.

* * *

FROM what I gathered, anyway, the First Division of the Sandiganbayan finally threw out the case, in a resolution penned by Associate Justice Diosdado Peralta.

It seems that, way back in 1996, the PCGG filed the graft case against Cojuangco to make him pay for something he allegedly did when he was director of the PCA.

The PCA is the Philippine Coconut Authority. The PCGG accused Authority The PCGG accused Cojuangco, Fidencio de Castro, Hermenegildo Zarate and four others, plus of course the PCA administrator, Felix Buelos.

The names of three of those others seemed very annoyingly familiar to you. The persons bearing those names have penned many, many columns for this paper.

Lobregat, Ricanor and Bautista.

And so perhaps it is dismissal of the case is really not too late. Only half of the people accused in the case have died. Don't you just love this PCGG

* * *

NOW running away with the grand prize for the 2004 annual comical news episode is the amount which the PCGG has claimed to have been involved in the ... wait! "graft" case.

It was the highest amount of P2 billion. Whoaa!! Pansy is me, the amount is not even enough for the bail of Jose Pidal when his time comes. Oops!

Still, I don't know if the amount—all of the P2 billion—would make Dumbling proud for to being the biggest purloiner for the PCGG's rising hit-list graft.

Okay, so that time, Dumbling was forced to go into exile, following the takeover of The Cory from Ayo Mankoy and still working spectacular really happened to us.

But even then, to be taxed over P2 billion, at least in a just like Dumbling, who remember, made billion-peso businesses, should have been a lot of fun.

The only question we are, in fixing the case way back in 1996, or when it is being years ago, did the PCGG arrogantly mean to recover the money?

Or did the PCGG perhaps want to just Dumbling and the others to just erect that P2 million?

For all we know, the PCGG liked the case just for, you know, the

* * *

AND SO now it's only 18 years later. How are you finally take a look at the merit of all that, er, "landmark" done by the PCGG in its mission to file cases wholesale. It's super!

Last we were talking about the fantastic amount of P2 million. You see, the PCGG case talked about "unwarranted benefits" to Cocofed, which resulted in "undue disadvantage" to the government.

And that was supposed to be the cause of Dumbling et al. I mean, come on, boss, couldn't you have been tagged that chair?

Still, despite this rare admission of Gloriaveta, all those businesses and all those rich families are getting "unwarranted benefits" from the electricity subsidy.

I don't know if the PCGG can sue themselves for graft. I only know that we, the guys down here, must pay for the subsidy with our blood, sweat and tears.

And what about the PCGG appointees in all those sequestered companies? They made more money than the government as well, i.e. "unwarranted benefits?"

Does that mean that it's now time to abolish the PCGG, while the service appointees are still enjoying the perks?

* * *

ANYWAY, the original prosecution assigned in the case, Veronio Salanguit, has actually issued statements on the Sandiganbayan decision.

He said then that "there is no question (in the PCGG case) that the disbursements were illegal, anomalous, irregular, or excessive."

In other words, the PCGG could not show any "bad faith" in the transactions between longtime partners in various projects involving the coconut industry.

Still more wonderful than all those was the claim of the PCGG on why it had to file the graft case. And that was, well, that the harassment led to other offenses, supposedly.

But what were those other offenses? Books, arson?

Er- which the Sandiganbayan said, oh yeah, well, those HIS' POSED other offenses were not good enough. You should be specific. Otherwise, you violate the rights of the accused.

The point coin of their motions who were accused by the PCGG did not even know what those other offenses to which the disbursement could have led, supposedly.

* * *

FOLLOWING is a short note I got from Annie Garcia, vice president for operations of Shopping Center Management Corp., the corporate side of Hotel "Young" Ky's chain of humongous SM malls.

"This has reference to your column last July 31, 2004, citing an incident which occurred in SM Megamall regarding the handling by our security personnel of the autistic child who wandered away from his mother as she was paying her bill at the SM Department Store.

"We acknowledge the mall's responsibility in connecting full assistance in all our customers. We did try to help look for the missing boy as soon as we received notice of the incident. With this experience, please be assured that we will subject our guards to a training session regarding autism so that we may better appreciate all our customers."

GSIS sees ₱497M in trading gains

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE GOVERNMENT Service Insurance System (GSIS) is continuing to grow its investments in the stock market, booking P497 million in trading income from January to July 2004.

For this year, the government pension fund expects P497 million in trading gains.

But according to Winston Garcia, GSIS president and general manager, could exceed the retained income "if only the brokering at the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) board would stop."

Garcia told the business that the pension fund would continue to trade in the stock market to help it they continue to generate enough revenue to cushion the returns of its members.

He also said the GSIS would not intervene in the operations of the PSE—adverb to separate from GSIS investments in blue-chip firms—should a court of law enforce the pension fund to do so.

A group of stockbrokers earlier moved to court to stop members of the board from completing the sale of PSE shares through a private placement.

The brokers opposed the sale of 40 percent of the PSE to private institutions, namely: GSIS, PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund, San Miguel Retirement Fund, Rizal Bay Investment Ltd., SSI Group (Far East) Ltd., A. Soriano Corp. and Equitom Partners.

In a resolution signed by several 90-stockholders, they said that the private placement was "tantamount to insider loans," and lacked transparency.

They also said that the transaction prize of P19.20 per share "was extremely low and grossly disadvantageous to PSE stockholders."

From October to December last year, the pension fund earned P24.36 million from its stock trading services, GSIS said in a statement.

The pension fund registered trading income of P16.57 million from January to March or an increase of 47 percent over the P11.26 million it earned in the first quarter of 2003.

GSIS maintained the growth in the second quarter, earning P127.3 million or 20 percent higher than the first quarter. This brought the first half earnings to P252.87 million.

The pension fund holds roughly P50 billion worth of shares in blue-chip firms.

Its P50 billion stock investments make up roughly 16 percent of its total P314 billion investment portfolio as of May. The bulk of its investments are in bonds and government securities.

The PSE earlier posted the GSIS as one of its paid-up investors in the future.

Aboitiz expects profit to rise to ₱700M in two years

By Clarissa S. Bacino

ABOITIZ One Inc., the master and holding arm of Aboitiz & Co., has projected an almost five-fold increase in its net profit to about P700 million in the next two years with the introduction of its new utilities service.

The company experienced a net income of P149 million in 2003. Aboitiz officials said they were excited to introduce their profit base per of P1.86 to P200 million this year.

Jaime Aboitiz, president of Aboitiz One, said the company last Aug. 3 launched a utilities called Unilink.

The new product, he claimed, uses a first of its kind in the country. He said customers would be given a choice whether they would want their cargo to travel by land, sea, or both. Aboitiz declined to say whether it does.

"This is a product that will provide our customers a choice of lead times and simplified rate that is less time-sensitive," said the company's top official. "We'll be able to reduce our inventory to ensure by 100 percent in two years' time to P700 million."

In the first quarter, the company posted a P46-million in net income or double its earnings a year ago.

Aboitiz said that before 1-2-3 was introduced last week, a customer would first have to bring the goods to a pier at airport to be cleared. Then the products dropped to another premises.

"With 1-2-3, one will just have to call any Aboitiz office to have the goods picked up," he said.

Aboitiz One has 500 nationwide.

Aboitiz One utilizes a fleet of 7 aircraft, nearly 20 sea vessels, and more than a thousand land vehicles for its delivery and courier service. The company is affiliated with Aboitiz Transport System Inc., formerly WG&A.

Last week, the company forged a P1.5-billion, 5-year deal with Swiss pharmaceutical distributor Sterbolex Philippines Inc. for the delivery of medical and health care products in the country.

CAP considers shares-for-equity swap

THE COCONUT Authority Philippines Inc. (CAP) may soon convertible preferred shares to allow a prospective foreign investor to acquire a third of the pre-owned government equity.

After emerging from a meeting at the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) yesterday, CAP director Isidro Ca. Isagani Jr. said that they are studying the investor's proposal delivered that may be redeemable in 10 years in exchange for an equity infusion of at least $100 million by a prospective investor.

The proposed investment may consist of a long term loan and $100 million worth of bonds equity. The amount of the proposed loan has yet to be disclosed.

After 3-5 years, we can retire the preferred shares," Isidro said. "We [will] have enough time to settle it (preferred shares redemption)."

He declined to identify the investor, but said the proposed equity infusion will come from "funds from the United States."

CAP is also finalizing terms of a possible agreement with the prospective investor, which hopefully will come on board in a month's time, Bobcopsita said.

The investment is subject to Securities and Exchange Commission, the regulator is giving CAP until Sept. 30 to make good its promise to bring in a new investor and help the pay-outed from subscribers from fraud earlier.

Also, the SEC is now considering subscriber to restore CAP's dealer's license—or to permit to sell securities—which is set to expire on Sept. 06.

In its financial report last year, CAP recorded recurring operational losses amounting to P3.6 billion in 2003 and P401.3 million in 2002.

Its trust fund assets, being managed by trustee banks, "had net negative trailing of" to match its total bills, or net liability to plan holders, amounting to P326.6 billion. This resulted in a trust fund deficit of P17.2 million as of end 2003.

CAP recently announced that a group of investor banks had offered to expand to the pre-need company in fund P3.4 billion in loans.

The amount offered a equivalent to the face value of CAP's Metro Rail Transit or MRT bonds, sources said.

The loan proposal is an alternative to selling the bonds at its present value of 95.6 billion, which was lower than its 2002 appraised value of about P7 billion.

To ease the Asian education pre-need claims, CAP consolidated its assets at least P2.4 billion worth of bonds, backed by the cash flow from the MRT project-debt pool.

CAP had sought another month to negotiate with a prospective investor to bail out its likely billion P200 million in new equity to the company, the SEC said.

The SEC and another investor was working to take over the company should CAP fail to find an investor.

SEC chair Lilia Bautista said a European investment bank had approached the SEC to express its interest in infusing more than $1.00 million into the pre-need company. She declined to identify the interested investor. Elizabeth L. Sanchez

Disclosures

FILIPINAS Bank will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Sept. 13, 2004 at 10 a.m. at the Garden Ballroom of Eden Manor I-A Hotel, Mandaluyong City.

* * *

JG Summit Holdings Inc. filed a Notice of Exempt Transaction with the Securities and Exchange Commission for the subscription offer of its 2bn million common shares, redeemable preferred shares.

* * *

PLDT/MHC Telephone Corp. confirmed reports that the Court of Appeals upheld the decision of a lower court exempting the company from paying local franchise taxes.

* * *

MERCURY Laboratories Inc. bought 6,000 of its own shares at P1.00 each.

* * *

FAR Eastern University will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Sept. 28. Stockholders of record as of Aug. 23 will be entitled to vote at the meeting. *Compiled by Marina G. Tabasa, PDI Research*

Currencies

August 9, 2004	Unit	Cash Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.8141/0.8181	1.000000	55.7800
Japan	Yen	0.7401/0.7433	0.908926	50.6981
United Kingdom	Pound	1.4911/1.4977	1.831376	102.1384
Canada	Dollar	0.6044/0.6076	0.742478	41.4206
Switzerland	Franc	0.6337/0.6367	0.778529	43.4229
Sweden	Krona	0.1107/0.1112	0.135960	7.5843
Singapore	Dollar	0.4740/0.4763	0.582187	32.4784
Australia	Dollar	0.6044/0.6076	0.742478	41.4206
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.1045/0.1050	0.128377	7.1611
Saudi Arabia	Riyal	0.2170/0.2180	0.266533	14.8683
Kuwait	Dinar	2.8730/2.8870	3.528501	196.8548
Bahrain	Dinar	2.1587/2.1687	2.651000	147.8907
United Arab Emirates	Dirham	0.2217/0.2227	0.272300	15.1894
Qatar	Riyal	0.2236/0.2246	0.274600	15.3168
Thailand	Baht	0.0203/0.0204	0.024900	1.3890
Brunei	Dollar	0.4740/0.4763	0.582187	32.4784
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.0000/0.0000	0.000000	0.0000
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.2142/0.2152	0.263000	14.6711
South Korea	Won	0.0007/0.0008	0.000900	0.0502
China	Yuan	0.0981/0.0986	0.120500	6.7219
Taiwan	Dollar	0.0241/0.0242	0.029600	1.6509
Vietnam	Dong	0.0000/0.0000	0.000000	0.0000

BIR files tax evasion charges . . .

which were already given notice by the BIR to settle their tax assessments, including income tax and value-added tax (VAT), in the delivery of its service, Bacayao said, the BIR prioritized companies whose unpaid tax liabilities reach at least P1 million.

According to Revenue Deputy Commissioner for prosecution Lizaveta Evangelista, the unpaid tax liabilities of each delinquent company averaged at P20 million. The biggest unpaid tax liability was of Gotesco's, which allegedly totaled P98 million in taxes.

He said the BIR was set to file tax evasion cases against 14 more companies this week. The amount of tax liabilities of each delinquent belonging to the first batch of respondents to the BIR's tax evasion cases was estimated at P300 million.

Tips on how to be a better investor (Part 3)

Mr. Bearbull

Ron Seathon

Learn technical analysis

THE ABOVE commandment is slightly misleading because if you desire to become a really competent investor, you must also learn global economics and fundamental analysis.

By global, I do not mean that you have to study every country but you must at least know what is happening in the United States.

Whenever the American stock market is heading, the rest of the world will follow. After the 9/11 attack, the US market got battered for a few months and every other stock market followed the downtrend. When the US market finally got back on its feet, every other market recovered.

How do you learn about the American stock market? Well, listen every night to Bloomberg, assuming that you have cable TV, and tune in to CNBC.

Listen to Chairman Greenspan when he addresses the Senate or Congress. This usually starts at 9:30 p.m. or 10 p.m., but I must admit that he is not the easiest person in the world to understand.

If you cannot do this, then read his speeches in the newspapers or go to the Internet and check on CNN Moneycentral or Bloomberg.com and also read the commentaries.

When Wall Street sneezes, the rest of the world catches pneumonia.

Basic knowledge

For the local market, the business section should give you all the necessary information. But if you want more details, go to the websites of Stocks or the PSE and listen to Channel 23, which is largely devoted to the economic and political situation of the Philippines. You can also enroll in courses at universities and colleges.

Next, you should have a basic knowledge in fundamental analysis.

This means that you need to know all about companies. You must know how to read a balance sheet, calculate the earnings per share and from this, the price/earnings ratio.

You need to understand what a yield means, how many times a dividend is covered, and what preferred and convertibles mean.

You should know book value and understand such concepts as debt and cash flow.

You can take a course in accounting or business management, and there are plenty of books, local and imported, in all the major bookstores.

However, do not recommend one because I studied accountancy in 1961 and have not read any books since then.

By now, you are probably too discouraged to read on, but don't despair because help is on the way.

Stockstock.com has a website that will provide you with up-to-the-minute quotations on every stock that trades throughout the courses.

It also gives you a company profile, dividend history, balance sheets covering the past five years, detailed data such as earnings per share and price/earnings ratios.

In addition, it gives you the last four analyst indications employed by technical analysts —all this for only P600 a month. I am a subscriber.

Technistock.com does not answer queries or give recommendations or we are not computerless.

Techpacks.com provides you with all the basic information you require, plus access detailed quotes and company news.

The investment guru for insights on the market, the degree of risk, what foreign brokers are doing, BUY and SELL recommendations, together with Wall Street, interest rates, oil, gold and TTL ADRs.

Together they form a comprehensive contribution that will give you all the information you would otherwise have to do.

If you want to buy a single file for effective analysis book, try TECHNICAL ANALYSIS OF THE FUTURES MARKET by John Murphy, available possibly at local bookstores or at amazon.com.

It was seventy years ago last 4 until ended, and to be a classic, every aspect is explained simply and it can be used for trading stocks, commodities, currencies or futures.

* * *

I tell apprehensive about the market, both ours and the US.

Last Friday, I wrote to subscribers that the number of American jobs created in July was about to be announced and that economists were expecting 200,000.

I warned that if the number fell below 200,000, Wall Street would take another dive and losing down markets around the world.

I had a premonition that they would come in and I gave suggestions, but the actual figure of only 32,000 was shocking.

The DOW last dropped 300 points in two days and in percentage terms, the NASDAQ has performed much worse.

The equity market and the dollar and while the bond market and gold rallied as they move in opposite directions.

It is said that investments are what Alan Greenspan makes of all this, but there are obviously doubts about economic growth being sustained at its current level.

Jobless recovery

A jobless recovery is not what President Bush wants to hear a few months ahead of the election. The Morgan Stanley Asia-Pacific leader has fallen steadily for the past six weeks and the S&P index of 500 companies fell 5.8 percent last week, breaking through a well-established trading range.

Technically, the bulls lost, and investors are lowering their expectations of earnings growth from the current 25-percent to 15 percent next year. Stocks analysts are downgrading GDP for 2005 to 3 percent.

If Stocks are less bereft with record oil prices, which has led to the seventh rise in gasoline prices this year. This is partly responsible for the unexpected jump in inflation from 3.1 percent to 6 percent, and a swell. Known local economic profiles that it will result 7.1 percent by November.

If he is right...then it is doubtful whether the central bank can keep its lending rate at 6.12 year low till the year-end. Any increase would make borrowing more expensive and slow down the economy.

The P20 minimum to the minimum wage is totally inadequate, given the rate at which food prices have risen.

The plight of the average Filipino worker is getting steadily worse for are further increases would probably result in more workers being sacked.

Senators and Congressmen have handed together to prevent the President from increasing the new rates she needs desperately to reduce the budget deficit next year.

Political not their finances. However, the oil study [illegible] can only get worse.

It is strategy to prevent a population explosion, I am all to have a statesmen as my wife refuses to be pregnant.

I will tell you all about this next week when the human resource. [illegible]@hotmail.com

Exporter meets challenge to help alleviate poverty

By Michelle V. Remo

IF MRS Furniture Manufacturing Corporation still on the private sector to help alleviate poverty that entered into consortia pairs firm Yayaki Furniture Manufacturing Inc. (YFMI) in action.

The Kabalikat sa Hanapbuhay or, established in April 2003, was designed to develop individuals and communities by offering livelihood and skills training programs.

It is through the Kabalikat program that YFMI strives to give back to the community.

YFMI, which employs 9,000 people and generates P9.1 billion in revenue a year, is the country's biggest producer of wicker furniture and the largest exporter of such goods.

"This is our response to the President's call," said Sonia Yonzo Aquino, YFMI director for community development. "Having a strong belief that we can make a difference is a good starting point."

Sewing to weaving

The sources of local raw from sewing to weaving to wood crafting and the manufacture of gift items.

YFMI chose Tanauan, Malvar, Balayan and Sto. Tomas in Batangas and Calamba in Laguna as the initial beneficiaries of the program.

YFMI chose these communities as most of YFMI's employees are based in these areas.

To ensure that the trainees adopt a committed and holistic development, the Kabalikat program puts a premium on instilling the value of self-reliance.

"Only half of our work is focused on giving them skills training," Aquino said. "The other half is dedicated to helping them find jobs or assist them in becoming entrepreneurs."

Helping in the noble work are the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda), local government officials of the five beneficiary communities and the Japanese embassy.

While YFMI handles all the organizational and networking tasks, Tesda and the LGU partners provide the trainers, facilities and logistics and the Japanese Embassy helps in the source funds.

CORPORATE CITIZEN

Our project originated by YFMI under the Kabalikat program was the Malvar Sewers' Training Center.

While an initial funding of P800,000 from the Japanese government...an extensive sewing course was offered to women, mainly mothers, from Malvar.

The local government of Malvar donated its old municipal hall to house the training center.

Training entrepreneurs

Last year, the Malvar Sewers' Training Center produced 203 graduates, some of whom landed jobs in garment factories in the Calabarzon area.

Others became entrepreneurs.

That training center has now developed into a business enterprise for the graduates, Aquino said.

The trainees now accept sewing contracts under the name of the Malvar Sewers' Training Center and rent out a share of their earnings to contributions operations.

Part of what they give back to the training center is used to finance those sewing courses for those who

WOMEN IN Calamba learn to make holiday decorations.

do not have the money to pay for them.

Skilled workers

In technical and vocational skills training, Kabalikat has produced 203 graduates last year from the communities of Calamba, Tanauan and Malvar.

Courses given covered the fields of electronics, electronics and electrical, Aquino said.

YFMI is pleased to say that many of our tech-voc graduates who used to have difficulty looking for jobs are now employed and earning a decent living," Aquino said.

A number of graduates have landed jobs in companies like Asia Brewery, Atsumi Garments and Toyota Philippines.

To help the graduates earn, Kabalikat would also like to network to assist those in looking for buyers of their products.

Their products are now a favorite of some companies looking for giveaway items for the holidays.

Aquino said YFMI buys its components from Kabalikat graduates, some of whom have already formed cooperatives and formalized their businesses.

YFMI even put up a shopping center to its manufacturing plant in Calamba.

Aquino said YFMI hopes to continue with the Kabalikat program, and eventually expand it to cover more communities.

PBCom to sell ₱12.5B in NPAs

By Doris C. Bumbac

THE PHILIPPINE Bank of Communications is set to bid out P12.5 billion worth of non-performing assets by the end of the month.

PBCom president Isidro Ongsiaco said in an interview that 12 groups have expressed serious interest in PBCom's assets, of which eight were considering the Ongpin address.

He declined to name the prospective bidders were foreign groups.

The total assets to be bid out, half consisted of non-performing loans and the rest are idle real estate assets.

Ongsiaco was optimistic that PBCom would be able to dispose of the assets during the bidding covered by the Special Purpose Vehicle Act Framework.

The SPV Law, which took effect in 2002, intends to help banks get rid of their NPAs by removing some of the loans and reducing how much collected from the sale or transfer of assets.

Philippine Commerce (CPAC) is helping PBCom sell the assets to clean up the bank's finances.

PBCom earlier forged a P1.6 billion refer-billion deal with the state-owned Philippine Deposit Insurance.

Under the agreement, shareholders will infuse an additional P1 billion while the PDIC will extend P5.6 billion in financial assistance.

The banks three major shareholders are Salalim Ltd. (37 percent), Mahla (28 percent) and Cheung (26 percent).

The PDIC assistance will cover losses to be incurred from the sale of bad assets at just 20 percent of the market value.

PBCom expects to post P200 million-P1 billion in annual profit starting this year following the implementation of the rehabilitation program.

Investments surge 590% . . .

In the first six months, growth was seen across all sectors with the utilities sector overseeing 70 percent of all new investments.

The official noted that the increase center is slowly continued to generate the biggest energy infrastructure technology based projects.

There were a total of P3.96 billion in call sector investments in the first half, making up 63 percent of all new IT projects.

Of the projects committed from January to June, foreign capital investments of P1.23.3 billion or 87 percent of the total while local investments made up P1.1 billion.

Data from the National Statistics Coordination Board showed that investments in the past four years have consistently declined from P307.39 billion in 2000 to P63.79 billion in 2003.

Foreign direct investments dropped the same trend as it declined from P90.07 billion in 2000, P68.13 billion in 2001, P46.05 billion in 2002 and P34.83 billion in 2003.

Local investments amounted to P127.31 billion in 2000, P120.35 in 2001, P53.14 billion in 2002 and P28.78 billion in 2003. Also see BC Domingo

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BUSINESS

NTC orders cell phone retailers, shops to register

By Cherbie S. Bedoya

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission has ordered all cellular phone dealers and repair shops to register with the NTC within September and be subjected to unannounced inspections.

NTC Chief Ronald Solis said the agency issued on Aug. 6 two new circulars that would take effect 15 days after their publication in major national dailies.

The circulars required all covered establishments to register with the NTC within a 30-day period after publication.

If enforced strictly, the two pave NTC policies could kill the burgeoning market for stolen mobile phones and put cellular phone thieves out of business.

The NTC, however, failed to put secure teeth into the new regulation when it was forced to reconsider another plan to require cellular phone repair shops to secure an accreditation from the phone manufacturers like Nokia, Sony Ericsson, Motorola, or any other brand they manual or service, before they could operate.

The Commission wanted to require phone manufacturers to submit a list of their accredited service centers. But the NTC decided to remove this accreditation requirement from the circular because it would only complicate its implementation.

Solis said the registration of cellular and repair shops together with the subsequent fines for failure to do so would help improve NTC's earnings from P1.4 billion in 2003. The NTC is targeting to collect P1.6 billion from fees and charges this year.

There are between 80,000 and 10,000 mobile phone dealers and another 5,000 and 10,000 cellular phone repair shops in the National Capital Region alone, based on NTC estimates.

Requiring a prior registration with the NTC, according to Solis, would help the government track down an illegal activity like scrubbing of stolen cellular phones as well as prevent broadcast activities using mobile phones like text messages.

He said the Commission would seek assistance from the police to implement the spot checks on the phone dealers and repair shops.

A penalty of P5,000 had been set for each violation committed by a dealer or repair shop. Among these violations are the sale or trading of stolen phones and parts, relabeling of cellular phones and repairing stolen or NTC-proofs.

The Commission said it would suspend, cancel or revoke the permit or competitive certificate of violators.

The NTC would collect from each shop or filing fee of P100, a permit fee of P1,200 and an inspection fee of P720. The NTC permit is valid for a year and must be renewed annually.

Dealers would be asked to register with the NTC their inventory of mobile phones and IMEI cards. They must also maintain a monthly sales and stock report.

But NTC added that dealers must not engage in the trading of stolen or smuggled phones and SIM cards which require stolen must not unlock stolen phones and blocked SIM cards.

"The altering of IMEI number is strictly prohibited and is illegal," Solis added.

The IMEI number serves as the serial number of the mobile unit and this is what the NTC normally asks when blocking stolen cellular phones.

"The phone companies argued that the industry is already deregulated. But we have a problem requiring the use of some police powers. The Commissioners believed this is something it must do," Solis said.

There had been no duty as to what part of the more than 27 million cellular phone subscribers have taken advantage of stolen phones.

"This could be a big step to prevent the widespread cellular phone theft. But we still need a stronger measure like a law to better address the problem," Solis pointed out.

"We also want Congress to criminalize the unlocking of cellular phones to minimize cellphone theft. It could be made as an amendment to the postal code to add a provision on address the growing concern of the public," the NTC chief added.

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LIFESTYLE

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Workout addiction

WELL AND GOOD

Dixie Aseo

WHEN was how the word addiction, you usually think of cocaine, drinks, alcohol, cigarettes or heavy junkies. Recently, it even think of exercise.

But addiction means obsessive obsession to something. And there is nothing healthy about obsession.

According to Jonathan Bethel, associate professor of Exercise and Sports Studies at Smith College in Massachusetts, the trademark of addiction is the reliance on something outside your self to cope with life and increase stress.

In the 1970s, running was considered a "positive addiction." However, in 1979 psychologist William Glasser proved that excessive running could become a "negative addiction" because of its harmful effect on physical and mental well being. In 1989, he found that exercise abuse was actually established as a compulsion to obsessive types of exercise.

Signs of addiction

Too much exercise does not necessarily mean a person is an addict. There is a difference between over-exercising and exercise addiction. Why a person is doing so much exercise spells the difference.

An aerobics instructor teaching many classes a week is in danger of being over-trained, not addicted. Competitive athletes usually re-orient their lives around exercise time but are not considered addicts.

So, what are the signs of an exercise addict? According to Morgan, there are four symptoms common to exercise abusers: They rely extensively on exercise; they continue to exercise even when injured or ill; and they experience withdrawal symptoms when they cut back on exercise.

Excessive reliance

Fitness people exist to exercise; it is normal to increase the frequency and duration of the workouts to improve their fitness level. However, most people will eventually reach a plateau of maintenance.

Exercise addicts, on the other hand, are never satisfied with the their routines. They continually try to increase their dose of exercise. The need for exercise becomes compulsive. Exercise becomes the number one priority. Family responsibilities, social and work obligations are supplemental to the time of workouts.

According to sports psychologist Jack Foghi, one reason for an addict's compulsion is that physical activity may be his/her only means of coping with stress and anxiety. Research shows that exercise is beneficial in stress management, but it should not be the only means to combat stress. A psychologically balanced person will have other ways of coping.

Is sickness or injury

Regular exercisers are usually reluctant to stop their workouts even when injured because they fear losing hard-earned gains. But most people will listen to reason and take a break from their exercise routine if they are aware of the risks like exercise addiction.

In his case studies, Morgan found that workout addicts continued to exercise even when at risk of an illness or serious injury.

Withdrawal symptoms

Even casual exercisers experience some form of mild anxiety when they miss a workout or two, but exercise addicts experience withdrawal symptoms that are similar to those felt by heroin users. Commonly reported symptoms include sleep problems, changes in appetite, mood shifts and depression.

Causes

Nobody knows for sure why a person becomes addicted to exercise. Researchers think it may be due to desensitization with one's body, low self-esteem, eating disorders and personality disorders like obsessive-compulsive disorder. Another theory is that people become addicted to elevated levels of endorphins. Intense exercises are chemically similar to opiates like morphine and heroin.

People may get addicted to physical activity because it is their only means of coping with stress and anxiety

Dangers

Just like habitual drug users, exercise addicts need increasing "dosage" to achieve their goal or satisfaction. This can lead to injury and fatigue. Over the intensity, exercise gets effected. Moderate amounts of exercise strengthens the immune system and make us less vulnerable to diseases. Too much exercise has the opposite effect.

Since addicts only know heavy-to-extreme exercise, there is a danger of the "all or nothing" attitude. They may quit exercising completely when injury or burnout occurs.

Research has found that exercise addicts are more likely to develop eating disorders like anorexia and bulimia. Anorexics avoid eating because of fear of getting fat while bulimics vomit the food they eat believing this will prevent weight gain. Both disorders stem from poor self-esteem. Excessive exercise due to addiction can also lead to cardiovascular laboratory abnormalities and osteoporosis (fragile bones) in females.

Addiction checklist

The following questions from Blumer Mountain magazine can help you tell if you are addicted to exercise or not. A single "yes" to some does not mean you are obsessed with your workout but it indicates that you may develop a problem, and possibly an addiction.

1. Does exercise provide the primary source of gratification in my life?
2. Does it provide the primary means of escape or avoidance of problems?
3. Am I developing a tolerance to exercise, needing more than I used to to achieve the desired effect?
4. Do I need it to function?
5. Is an exercise problem causing me self or create the development of health problems?
6. Has my exercise routine resulted in negative from others to change or to stop?
7. Does my exercise routine occur as a periodic, cyclical or compulsive activity?

What to do

If you think you are an exercise addict, consult a psychologist or psychiatrist. The goal is to overcome the addiction while keeping exercise as part of a balanced healthy lifestyle.

Raise your energy level to the max

"... Why is everyone here so happy except me? Because they have learned to say goodbyes and beauty is everywhere, and the blues ...

"... Why don't we goodbyes and beauty everywhere? Because you cannot see outside of you what you fail to see inside. " —Oprah Winfrey, "Wisdom" by Audrey de Stella

Low-key

In the dilemma of modern times, a malady that could have risen. People are often drained of energy as a consequence of the rigors of daily living. Their energy level becomes so low that it worsens an environment in the body conducive to illness.

But who wants to get sick? Are there some preventive measures you can take, a change of lifestyle perhaps, a new perspective?

Since attached to body are one with the spirit, you cannot treat the body without treating the other dimensions of the self. Activities, thoughts, has to be made. Will it be strength or weakness?

True sight

In order to tap unlimited energy, the thoughts running through your mind must be considered.

● Get behind your thoughts. Remember that they have energy that can either weaken or strengthen you. Eliminate negative thoughts.

● Look inside yourself, for you a history of nervous, uncaring thoughts and emotions or a source of calm, love-flowing positive feelings? If you, fail to see the goodness that you are inside, you will not be able to produce it on a level of yourself. In short, you become what you think.

Inside: I see paradise.
Outside: I do not attract abundance.
Inside: I have abundance.
Outside: I attract opportunities for expansion.

Inside: I will become a happier person.
Outside: I attract the energies of happiness.

● Raise the frequencies of your state of mind and being by:

Aligning yourself with Spirit/God/Source. The Source through prayer, meditation and positive self talk. "We must raise ourselves to the levels of energy where we see the light we seek, where we are the happiness we desire, where we are the love we feel it missing, where we are the unlimited abundance we crave."

By being light, love, abundance and happiness, we attract these to us and into our lives. Conversely, by harnessing their absence, destructions will continue to flow into our lives. Why? Because we keep giving what is lacking in our lives so much attention, time and energy.

Instead of thinking about what you don't have all the time, think about what you do have all the time. Have the good things. Stop counting the bad. Praise the blessings, and more will come your way.

● Like attracts like. If you are experiencing pain, discord, depression, scarcity, it's because you've been attracting these circumstances in your life. Low energy begets more low energy. You invite it into it as they say, it is done on a subconscious level.

● Eat a high energy diet. Processed food, fried, drugs, are low energy substances. Eat fresh fruits, vegetables, nuts, soy, non-sweet breads, whole-wheat rolls etc. Low energy foods are flour-based sweets, meats, dairy, sugar, because conscious about what you ingest.

● Seek high-energy music with soothing and calm vibrations. Reach melodic sounds with lyrics that are offensive will not raise your energy levels.

● Declutter your environment. Clean up and put more order in your surroundings. Heal with yourself. Beautify and improve.

● Limit or consign your exposure to electromagnetic rays from cellular phones, televisions sets, electronic equipment, microwaves. Use safeguards if it cannot be avoided.

● Be conscious of the energy levels of the people in your life. Choose to be with those who encompower you.

● Write down your affirmations. Then verbalize them. Place them in strategic places in your home/office. Be detailed in your affirmations.

Reminder: "I innovative manner into my life that ideal job so that I can buy a car and house. I envision my destiny to be a reality by September 2006. I commit to help the poor by donating my time and money. I commit to be happier, healthier and stronger."

High-energy drink:

Ingredients: one whole orange, squeezed
1 drop of ginger juice
1 tsp honey
Mix in a blender and drink.

Skin softener:

Use the leftover orange halves to rub your elbows, knees, soles of feet to soften dry skin. Scrub for 30 seconds with 1 tbsp sour cream and ½ tsp salt. Rinse.

Love and light

References: "The Power Of Intention" by Dr. Wayne W. Dyer

Watch "Life" by Guy Quiroz, 11:30 p.m., Wednesday, Studio 23.

Listen to "The Beauty In Women," 6-7 p.m., Tuesday, Radio Rebel, AM 898.

Your thoughts have energy that can weaken or strengthen you, so avoid thinking of negative things

How dreams can solve your problems

EVERYBODY dreams, even those who say they can't remember a single dream. For dreaming is an essential and natural activity of our sleeping mind. We spend one-third of our lives asleep so dreaming comprises a large chunk of our mental activities.

But what exactly is a dream? Why do we dream and what can we get out of our dreams?

A dream has been defined as "the language of the subconscious mind." Because it is a language, it has its own rules of grammar, punctuation, structure and rhythm. Once we learn the language of our dreams, it becomes relatively easy to understand their meaning.

Reasons

Why do we dream? There are many reasons for this. First, a dream can be a warning of a future event so we can prepare for it. This is usually the recurrent dream of impending deaths of close relatives and friends. We are being prepared for the tragedy, so that its emotional impact event is lessened. It is about an accident, perhaps we can warn the people involved.

Second, a dream can give us insights into our present situation, for example, our state of health, relationships or spiritual life.

Third, a dream can give us clues on who we were in a past life. When one dreams of ancient civilizations, or a foreign country with strange language and costumes s/he has never seen in this life, it may be a past life memory.

Fourth, a dream may carry important messages from dead relatives or the spirit world in general. This usually happens during birth days, death anniversaries or important events in the life of the dead (see post-intended).

Solutions

FIRST, a dream may offer solutions to a problem we may be having. Because our daily lives are filled with distractions, we are rarely receptive and unique solutions to problems. All we need to do is look for the solutions before sleeping.

Solutions to difficult problems we may be working on often appear in dreams in symbolic language that is not easy to understand without additional explanation. Some great scientific breakthroughs were a result of dreams.

Do you know how organic chemistry came about? It was through a dream. The great Dutch chemist, Kekule, was working very hard on the molecular formula of Benzene when he fell asleep and had a dream. He dreamt that snakes were dancing before him. Then they turned into a snake biting its tail. The shape figure the snake encircled him sensed his unconscious.

Organic chemistry's birth

When he woke up, he realized that the strange shape the snake assumed, i.e. a loop, must be indicative of the shape of the formula of Benzene. It turned out to be correct. Kekule's dream gave birth to organic chemistry.

Here's another classic example. Elias Howe got the idea for a sewing machine needle from a dream. Howe detested his new employer by a order of cannibals and they were about to eat dinner. Problem was, he was the main dish! They put him in a big cauldron and began cooking him.

While he was there, he saw the natives dancing around the cauldron, each of them holding a spear with a pointed blade that had a hole in it. He soon heard about these blades with holes. Then he woke up. That's how he got the idea of putting a hole on the head of his sewing needle.

Subconscious suggestion

Dreams can also help us find solutions to problems that perplex us in our waking state. All you have to do before sleeping is to suggest to your subconscious mind to give you a dream that will contain a solution to the problem at hand. Repeat this suggestion over and over again until you fall asleep. If done consistently, you will wake up one morning with the solution.

When giving such a suggestion to your sleeping mind, you must be alert to the answer given to your waking state because it may not come in very clear terms. The dream can be symbolic, or it can lead you to a person, a place or a book that will contain the solution to your problems. You have to pay attention to these clues.

Truth, often a dream may be merely psychological wish fulfillment or a wishing device. A young woman may secretly wish to have a date with her best friend's boyfriend. In her dream she also have him all to herself.

Have a pleasant dream tonight!

E-mail jfrancis@edumail.com

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime J. Francis

PHILIPPINE Tudor managing director Irene Marcel Francisco with Anabelle Rama and Liezl Martinez

DAHM Jean Lopez, Arcelie Chantal, Baltazar Aquino and Babe Arenas admire the handsome Actor watch

BROADCAST journalist Cai Debes and actress Arcanita de Perochi Santos-Syquia (r) Inc.'s top exec. Renee Huang

HOT Alcazaba interviews director Marya J. de los Reyes

CHIC all the country's stars and actual Chartist customer, Eddie Garcia, is congratulated by Arcelie Chantal.

SHU Uemura Philippines brand manager Tina Tiam with Shu Uemura's head of international development, Vincent Jeanneret

TESSA Prieto-Valdes and Shu Uemura International's Hiroaki Gondo

THREE hostess Jeannot Speculator Inc. president Zenaida "Neely" Tantoco, Mrs. Arcelie Chantal and Peter Ling, managing director of Philippe Chantal Far East Limited

Watch-ing the beautiful people

PINK of the night Albert Martinez

IT was party time for the glittering persons and bedied celebrities when Chantal launched the new Mystic at its chic jewelry shop in Greenbelt 4. The new watch paid tribute to the current fashion personalities and heroes of the ultra-young, jetsetters.

It was love at first sight for ladies who flocked over the sleek and stylish timepiece befitting all those who consider the world theirs.

The chic and stylish Arcelie Perrault-Lady Madonna Antolch Chantal, elegant in an all-white outfit, welcomed the stars of the affair along with managing director for the Far East, actor Peter Ling. Some luminaries Inc. (SIE) president, super-dedicated servo/charity personality, target business woman Zenaida "Neely" Tantoco and SIE brilliant executive vice president, workaholic young gravel, actress Hoang.

The place was transformed into a showcase of Chantal's exquisite look. A delicious feast was whipped up by the Peninsula Manila's Mezzino and other cocktail drinks flowed courtesy of Ralphs Whisky & Spirits Canada.

The place rang with "hellos" and touch of cheek kisses were exchanged. Everyone had a ball listening to the evening's host, the inimitable Boy Abunda, on hire, who described the event as a "beautiful tribute to the independent, multi-dimensional women industry plays to and try." He roundly chatted with actors and others who milled up to him, hoping he wouldn't forget them, which I'm sure he didn't!

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Tay Hagen co-Kodak Max

VISIONS and Expressions! Gingsy Jarra de la Merced with architect Eraldo Montes

BEAUTIFUL iconic couple, Nina Herrera Hoang and Jessica Puyat

THE TALL and the beautiful. Monica de Meza and basketball star Don Allado

SHOPAHOLIC'S gorgeous couple, Dennis and Cecilia de Ventura

YAMA Tobinino, Miguel Rosales and COS staff's sweet wingers, Angelique Villanueva

BLUE Carmen of the Philippine Tatler, Jenni Epperson of INQUIRER's Jun Mag, Vicky Belmonte of Mega Magazine and Nonoy Ucio-Gonzalez of Metro Magazine

A short fashion show featuring the Artist collection showed us the sophisticated styles of this eye-catching watch. Bet it, then made the announcement that it was all doing to Jean Nomed "the dashing man of the night" was the tuxedo-clad for wrists Albert Martinez, who looked fabulous in a sleek three-button black suit. "The lady of the night" was the stunningly gorgeous Amanda de Rossi, radiantly divine in a gold tube outfit.

A grand raffle prize was given to Arcelie Chantal to one of Philippine cinema's iconic and a hard Chantal customer, Eddie Garcia. But, who else, naturally?

That evening movie stars rubbed elbows with our town's richest, entertainers and people who make a difference in their society. Watch the Philippine Tatler's prime movers, Irene Marcel Francisco, Baby Arenas, Lil Lopez, the beautiful couple, handsome Dennis Tantoco and his gorgeous wife, Cricketer Ye, Nino Herrera, young stars with the 4 In Cathy Hoang, the Manila Bulletin's multi-talented couple Arnold and Marilou Puno Sedaca, ABS-CBN Publishing's new guards, Ernie Lopez and his wife, southern belle Jenna, NBC's team of ruthless, Francis Lacson, and Shangri-La's prime asset, Jay Wanamey. Jana Billenge, back to the party scene (at least the scene) Peter and Mirette Jenner, media power knifed executive Abel Hernandez, and 12 Japanese, plus so many others too over-exposed to mention, darlings.

Play our guys, check our Chantal's Aeve Watch. It can't list "if" watch for nothing, darlings.

Though I had my eyes on the gorgeous Aeve watch, I resisted this high-profile society girl's eye-catching gold watch. I asked her what it was. She told me then added "the movement of the watch is excellent."

"With the price you paid for it, it has to be." I answered. She smilingly answered, "I don't mean the [unintelligible] aspect. I mean the way this watch moves back and forth to the pawnshop, Shauna."

And I always thought that diamonds are a girl's best friend, Uh huh?

Red-tipped day

Ahhh, the Tuscany, the prestigious Japanese cosmetic brand has women in the know alone with excitement thanks to an endless stream of new and super exciting products. The company unveils itself again, pleasing, when it launched its newest star product, the Lashliner Rouge, at a superb lunch event at the excellent and excellent Lumiere Restaurant.

For a casual and intimate atmosphere, pedagogue, the Shu Uemura ads and events led by its brilliant and ex-capable brand manager, Shan C. Tiam, transformed Lumiere into a Lashliner "Rouge Gallery," with all the Shu Uemura elements. We all dined in long tables Brasserie-style that allowed journos to easily up on each other over a sort of yummy French food provided by Lumiere and Japanese fare from the popular Zen Restaurant.

For this colorful happening, Shu Uemura brought in two lovelies from the International Team in Japan to bring us the latest on the brand.

For show-stopper Monsieur Vincent Jeanneret, head of international development, gave a big "thanks for all the support given to Shu Uemura this past," he then introduced the star of the day...the new sheer and shiny lipstick Lashliner Rouge, which was welcomed by the women with loads of "oohs and aahs."

Making sure that everyone got the full Lashliner Rouge experience were Shu Uemura Japan's Hitoshi Suzuki, Shu Uemura Hub, chief, super talented and gifted makeup artist Sang Pahetric, EDvol Philippines managing director Paul Ebert Dahlke, and Lumiere Division general manager Gracie Calagnan.

As I chatted with one of the gals, I asked why a certain babe wore no lipstick. I pointed for out to my bitchy pal, who answered, "Yeah she wears lipstick but she can't keep her mouth still long enough to apply it."

Dumb! Oh well...

Excellent food, a gift of Shu Uemura essentials that included Lashliner Rouge, naturally sweet, and flowing wine in the afternoon made us feel great—definitely a winning formula for this Uemura, darlings!

I left feeling light and giddy and bumped into the fashionable models Mary Ann Empson Tinio, as less, who looked sexy in the fashion plate that she was in spite of declaring in late-ish and entering the whole pregnancy test.

Shu Uemura products are available in Rustan's Makati and Shangri-La Plaza Mall. Okay gals, get those lips looking luscious.

L'ORÉAL Philippines managing director Paul-Henri Chollet with Miss Asia Trias and Denise Cabaya

SHU Uemura's talented makeup team, Kong Zubiaga and Bobbie Pitaru